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CONFIDENTIAL.

(6384.)

PART 7.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

MOROCCO.

January to June 1893.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting Morocco.

PART 7.

No. 1.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 1.)

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 1, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 74 I have the honour to report that the special messenger with a letter as directed, was dispatched to Fez to-day, but, owing to the bad state of the weather, I fear he may be delayed on the road.

No. 2.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 2, 1893.)

(No. 255.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 26, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch which I have received from Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu from Fez, containing an account of his first interview with Cid Emfadl Gharneet, the Sultan's Minister for Foreign Affairs, as also an extract of a private letter from him to me.

It is hardly necessary for me to draw your Lordship's attention to the strange and tortuous ways of Moorish diplomacy as displayed in this interview.

The Vizir told Mr. de Vismes that the answers to your Lordship's letters were not ready, but that the terms in which they should be couched were being earnestly considered, whereas all the while the answers had been sent to me five days before.

This extraordinary conduct had doubtless two motives. It was felt to be both impolite and impolitic to tell Mr. de Vismes that his Mission had ceased to have any object, but it was also felt that it was undesirable that he should in any way inspire the answers.

I think it very possible that French influence may have suggested the course taken, as the French Legation are well aware of your Lordship's correspondence with the Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Fez, December 17, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived here the day before yesterday at about midday.

On the previous evening I had addressed a short note to Cid Emfadl Gharneet announcing my impending arrival, and informing him that I was encharged with a

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message for his Excellency from Her Majesty's Government, and that I was the bearer of a letter from you to this effect, which I would deliver personally.

Cid Emfadi Gharneet sent me a message of welcome through Kaïd Maclean, who met me at about an hour's distance from this city, and I may say that I was received with perfect cordiality, every arrangement having been made for suitably entertaining me, and the Moorish Government showing me many of the small civilities which are understood in this country to mark consideration.

Cid Emfadi Gharneet had inquired with some anxiety of Kaïd Maclean whether I came in friendship or the contrary.

I requested Kaïd Maclean to assure him that the object with which I had been sent was of a perfectly friendly character, and that I intended to call on his Excellency the same evening simply to pay him my respects.

Cid Gharneet, in reply, begged me not to disturb myself that day, and appointed an early hour the next morning for receiving me.

It may not be superfluous to observe that the Moorish Minister on this occasion of our first meeting showed me greater courtesy than I had been accustomed in former times to experience at his hands. He did not keep me waiting for above two minutes, and rose to shake hands with me, which was not his habit hitherto. He had also dismissed the crowd of retainers and attendants surrounding his person, by whom I had frequently in times past found my intercourse with him to be embarrassed.

I introduced the conversation with expressions of my personal regard and goodwill towards him, of my great anxiety to see the best relations subsisting between Her Majesty's Government and that of Morocco, and of the great reliance I placed in his personal goodwill towards myself, and his friendly disposition towards Great Britain.

I said that the duty with which you had encharged me, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, was the source of the very greatest happiness to me, as from what I knew of his Excellency I was convinced that any difficulties which might at present stand in the way of a perfectly friendly intercourse between the two Governments would be speedily planed away, and we should thus jointly succeed in restoring their relations to a more cordial footing than even that which characterized them heretofore.

I added, with some gravity, that should I, in the course of my conversation, say anything to his Excellency which would not sound pleasantly in his ears, I begged he would be pleased to consider that in doing so I was only faithfully executing the mandate which I held of you under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, to whom my first duty lay.

Hereupon I handed to the Moorish Minister your letter, the terms of which seemed to give him much satisfaction, and he bade me many times welcome in the Sultan's name and his own.

He also said he would arrange that I should be received in audience by the Sultan. I explained to him that I had no instructions to solicit this honour, but that I should of course always consider myself at His Majesty's disposal.

After these preliminaries, Cid Gharneet conversed with me confidentially, and at some length, on several incidents of Sir Charles Euan-Smith's late Mission. He expressed personally friendly sentiments towards Sir Charles, but regretted that he should have left Fez without having accomplished anything which he could consider satisfactory. Such a thing, he said, had never happened yet to any Minister who had come to the Shereefian Court; he gave as instances M. Ordega, Sir John Drummond Hay, and Sir William Kirby Green. He gave me to understand that on the morning on which the Mission took its departure definitely from the camp where the last negotiations had taken place, the Sultan was quite ready to conclude the Treaty according to the draft last agreed upon, less the Article relating to free "cabotage," in lieu of which he would have been disposed to grant a Shereefian letter permitting the "cabotage" for a certain specified period. His tone also seemed to imply present readiness on the part of the Sultan to agree to an arrangement on those terms.

I must here add that I have obtained information from two independent sources, which, as far as I am able at present to judge, are perfectly reliable, that the Sultan had, on the night preceding the morning in question, caused a special courier to be dispatched to the camp to inform his Commissioners that he absolutely declined to conclude any Commercial Treaty with Sir Charles Euan-Smith, and that this decision had apparently been brought about by a letter received from a French source at Tangier.

Subsequently to this Cid Gharneet somewhat changed his ground by attributing the failure of Sir Charles' negotiations to his having distributed part of the indemnity

paid by the Basha of Fez on account of the menaces used to, and stones thrown at, myself and other officials by the populace, as charities among the poor of the capital. This he considered an unfriendly act, as it had given publicity (and that intentionally) to the fact that the Basha had been fined; it had accordingly bred suspicion in the minds of the Sultan and his Ministers, who had consequently determined to accept none of Sir Charles Euan-Smith's proposals. I merely remarked to his Excellency that I believed from what he told me that Sir Charles' intentions in this matter had been misunderstood.

After some further conversation in this strain, I observed to Cid Emfadi Gharneet that the exchange of views which had taken place between us had been of some interest to me, but it was now time that I should proceed to more serious business. I reminded his Excellency of the correspondence which had been opened by the Sultan with Her Majesty's Government relating to Sir Charles Euan-Smith's action on his late Mission.

I alluded to the letter addressed by Lord Rosebery to Cid Gharneet on the subject as a signal proof of friendship towards the Moorish Government. The latter, I said, surely could not answer such a charge as that brought in general terms against Her Majesty's Minister as a matter of small moment to Her Majesty's Government. The Moorish Government owed an explanation of its charge. Lord Rosebery had naturally expected an early response to his friendly overtures, and now two months had elapsed without any reply having been received to them. Her Majesty's Government were at a loss to understand the reasons of this delay, which had caused them considerable surprise and annoyance. I inquired of his Excellency whether he could enlighten me on the subject. Cid Gharneet said their Government were still considering the terms of their reply, and that the latter would soon be ready.

I added that I had been instructed to state confidentially that Her Majesty's Government did not approve of any harsh or discourteous language which might have been used by or on behalf of their Representative during the course of the late negotiations. This declaration was received with evident satisfaction, and Cid Emfadi said he would bring the purport of the language I had held to him to the knowledge of the Sultan.

He also inquired whether Sir Charles Euan-Smith would return to Tangier, to which I replied that Her Majesty's Legation had no information.

Before parting with Cid Emfadi Gharneet, as he himself afforded me the opportunity, I touched somewhat lightly on matters connected with the late French Mission. I did not elicit much information from him on the subject, excepting the fact that some question in which Figuig was concerned had been under negotiation.

I will, however, reserve this subject until I may be in a position to treat it more fully in a separate despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

(Private and Confidential.)
(Extract.)

Fez, December 20, 1892.

YOU have seen how Gharneet replied to me regarding the answer to Lord Rosebery's letter. Since then he has been ordered by the Sultan to furnish him with a Memorandum of my language, as to which I am writing another despatch.

Kaïd Maclean tells me that he has been informed by Gharneet, under the seal of the greatest secrecy, that the reply left here five days before my arrival, and believes this. I have small doubt that you have got the reply in your hand at this moment, for on Tuesday (yesterday week), when crossing the Sebu, I met Gharneet's most confidential retainer, who told me that he had been sent to Tangier, in post haste, with letters for Torres, and had left Fez two days before (Sunday); I smelt the rat at the time, but could get no information out of him.

Kaïd Maclean tells me it would not be in accordance with Shereefian policy to let me feel, immediately on my arrival, that my presence here has no *raison d'être*. A message was sent to me, through him, to invite me to stop here as long as ever I like. Of course, in this instance it well suits me to be deceived, as I want a pretext for

stopping on to gain intelligence. So as to secure myself on this side, in case I might by any chance lose this pretext, I informed Gharneet yesterday that I contemplated spending the "Aïd" (feast), which lasted to the first of the year, here.

I conclude that the dispatch of the reply to Lord Rosebery's letter was hastened when they heard that I was coming. I should not wonder if the French were behind this, as I should say they would dislike the Moors settling with us without their co-operation. They, of course, want the Moors to feel as dependent as possible on them. You will, perhaps, at this juncture recollect what I told you of the suggestion of M. Helonis in 1891 (of which I was informed by M. Cantagalli) that the Moorish Government should inform all the Powers that their foreign relations would henceforth be carried on through the French Legation.

I understand from Maclean that the general tone at the Court seems to indicate that Morocco feels it owes all that is satisfactory in the attitude of Her Majesty's Government to France.

At the same time, if I am correctly informed, there is a satisfactory backwardness on their part in throwing themselves entirely into the arms of France; but of this later on.

Gharneet had apparently heard favourable reports about you. He inquired greatly after you, and was much interested in my accounts of your wonderful travels and of your linguistic attainments.

Of course, he and I have started a mutual admiration society. It was a thousand pities, he said, that the Bashador did not bring me along with him last May. If he had done so, he felt sure the Commercial Treaty would now be an accomplished fact. Nay, more, if I had brought full powers myself, I would have been completely successful. And more in this strain, all of which, I need not say, I religiously took in.

No. 3.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 2, 1893.)

(No. 256. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 26, 1892.

THE French Minister paid me a visit recently, and alluded to my conversation with M. Souhart, which I had the honour to report in my despatch No. 190, Very Confidential, of the 22nd October, in which I communicated to the French Chargé d'Affaires your Lordship's desire to see cordial relations established between the two Legations.

At his Excellency's request I repeated to him what I had said to M. Souhart, and also the assurances which he gave me on that and subsequent occasions. Count d'Aubigny heartily indorsed M. Souhart's expressions about the desirability of good relations, and his assurances, as far as concerned the desire of France, to construct a railway, and such projects. When I mentioned that M. Souhart had said that Tuat was an Algerian and not a Moroccan question, he said, hurriedly, "Yes, yes; we have always said that to the Sultan and all the world."

Count d'Aubigny spoke with great modesty of his commercial concessions. He knew, he said, that he had only obtained what Sir C. Euan-Smith might have obtained had he chosen, and he seemed to imply that I must know that the said concessions were almost worthless and overrated. But, he added, he was obliged to bring back some concession from the Moorish Government in order to enable the Chamber to apply to Morocco the Minimum Tariff.

He then spoke of the Shereefian letter granted him, by which the Sanitary Council of Tangier, composed of the foreign Representatives, was intrusted with certain municipal functions to improve the condition of the town of Tangier, and said he hoped the proposed reforms would have my support. I said that any measure which tended to make Tangier more habitable had my cordial sympathy; but I added (without expressing any opinion) that his Excellency must be as well aware as myself that a preliminary objection had been raised to these concessions. Both the German and Spanish Ministers had openly announced that they had been instructed by their Governments to ignore the whole matter, as long as the concessions in question were notified merely through the French Legation, and not to each foreign Power separately. Count d'Aubigny said he had no doubt this would be

arranged, and that an official communication from the Moorish Government would be shortly received by each Legation.

According to the gossip of Tangier, the main result of the French Mission is that their Chief Dragoman has greatly improved his financial position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 4.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 2, 1893.)

(No. 257. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 27, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a second despatch from Mr. de Vismes respecting his proceedings at Fez, which I receive at the moment of the departure of the mail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 4.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Tangier, December 20, 1892.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that on the occasion of my first interview with Cid Emfadr Gharneet, the Moorish Minister, after mentioning pointedly the fact that the French Minister, on his recent Mission to this Court, returned his visit the very next day, announced his intention of in like manner returning my call.

I thanked him, and begged him to give me sufficient notice of the hour at which he would visit me, so that I might make a point of being at home.

Cid Emfadr Gharneet only paid me a very flying visit yesterday, immediately upon leaving the Court for the midday meal. He went through the form of sitting down and exchanging with me the usual inquiries, and then rose to leave, requesting me to come to his house at the same time to-day, as the Sultan had commanded him to take down in writing the language I had held to him, and he required my assistance for this.

I accepted the appointment, but the proceeding appeared to me somewhat unprecedented, and I was at a loss to know whether I must regard it as indicating distrust on the part of the Sultan towards Cid Emfadr Gharneet, or of both towards myself, whether there might not be a lurking intention through a superior knowledge of the language to pervert the meaning or form of my statements, or whether the Government was simply acting in pursuance of its ordinary method by putting off the necessity of replying in any way on the subject of my communication.

Having duly weighed the matter, I prepared in Arabic the *note verbale* of which I inclose an English text, and handed it to Cid Emfadr Gharneet, having previously by agreement deferred my visit to a later hour. Cid Emfadr, having at that moment to go to the Court, had no time to take any memorandum; but, after reading my *note verbale*, he expressed approval, and said he would at once show it to the Sultan. His whole manner left me under the impression that procrastination was his only object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 4.

Note Verbale.

I UNDERSTAND that the motive which has impelled Her Majesty's Government to send me to Fez is the consideration that circumstances, in themselves of small importance, occasionally arise which render the relations between two Governments difficult.

Her Majesty's Government are penetrated with the conviction that the action which they have pursued towards the Government of Morocco has been a signal proof of the friendly sentiments by which they are actuated. They are therefore at a loss to understand how it is that a letter addressed by Lord Rosebery to the Vizir, Cid Emfadl Gharneet, and forwarded to his Excellency by Mr. Eliot, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, two months ago, is yet without a reply. Not wishing hastily to arrive at the conclusion that their friendly sentiments towards Morocco are not reciprocated, they have desired to ascertain the cause of this delay, hoping that should any small difficulties stand in the way of that perfect understanding which they desire to see established between the two Governments, they will easily be planed away.

In order further to remove any possible doubt which might exist in the mind of the Shereefian Government as to the sincerity of the friendship of Her Majesty's Government, I have been instructed to state, confidentially, that rumours having been prevalent that the Sultan and his Ministers had, on the occasion of the late Mission, been offended by an apparent want of courtesy, Her Majesty's Government do not approve of any language which may have been harsh or discourteous.

Whilst giving these friendly assurances, I feel I should be wanting in my duty were I to hide from the Shereefian Government the fact that Lord Rosebery and Her Majesty's Government are at present most painfully impressed by the want of readiness which they have observed on the part of the Shereefian Government in responding to their friendly overtures.

Further, as indicated by the concluding paragraph of Lord Rosebery's letter, a painful impression has been created by the backwardness of the Shereefian Government to grant, in particular, the commercial facilities asked for by Great Britain.

There is no need for me to attempt to demonstrate the value to Morocco of the friendship of Great Britain; the Shereefian Government have had countless proofs of it in the past.

At the same time, there can be no doubt that His Shereefian Majesty and his Ministers, in their wisdom, understand that friendship, in order to be effective, must come from two sides.

(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

No. 5.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 2, 1893.)

(No. 258. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 28, 1892.

I HAVE not failed to endeavour to ascertain from M. Figuera, the Spanish Minister, what action he intended to take in the matter of the Spaniards who were ill-treated by the Moors on the occasion of the murder of Juan Trinidad. His Excellency told me at first that he was perfectly satisfied with the position of affairs. It had been proved, he said, that the Spaniards were innocent of the murder, and the Basha had imprisoned the soldiers who had been guilty of the only assault against Spanish subjects definitely proved, viz., a forcible entry into a Spanish house. I inquired whether the Basha had imprisoned the culprits, or said he would do so. M. Figuera hesitated, and ultimately sent for his Consul, who said that the Basha had merely stated that he was ready to imprison the guilty soldiers, if the Sultan approved, and that he had referred the whole matter to Fez.

It is rumoured generally that M. Figuera will shortly be transferred to Lisbon, and his Excellency's conversation left on me the general impression that he was anxious to smooth over matters for the remainder of his stay here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 6.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 2, 1893.)

(No. 259.)

My Lord,

Tangier, December 28, 1892.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 72 of the 20th instant I addressed to Cid Mohammed Torres the letter of which I have the honour to inclose a translation herewith.

In reply, I received from him the letter of which I have also the honour to inclose a translation.

As the case threatens to be somewhat grave, it may not be superfluous to explain the exact circumstances under which I returned Cid Mohammed Torres' letter. I desired Mr. White to call on him and give back the inclosures, as he had desired, and at the same time to remind him that he had a few days previously sent back to me a note which I had addressed to him, with a request that I would, as a personal favour to him, alter a passage in which I cited certain remarks he had made on the subject of the appointment of "semsars" (or agents) by British subjects. I had made the changes he desired, I said, in that note from a desire to comply with his wishes as far as possible, and I therefore thought I was justified in asking him to reconsider the letter he had written on this much graver subject. A few hours before he wrote that letter he had sent me a packet of correspondence from the Sultan and Cid Emfadl Gharneet, which was full of allusions to the friendship existing between Great Britain and Morocco, and in which certain friendly propositions were made. I had, naturally, no authority to answer these letters, but I wished to warn him that a communication such as that which he had addressed me would produce a disastrous effect. I therefore begged him to send me, before 12 o'clock the next day, a more just and conciliatory reply.

The language of the answer, which I inclose, appears to be very civil in the original, but the contents are not satisfactory.

As your Lordship directed me to inform the Moorish Government, without naming any particular authorities, I considered myself at liberty to address not only Cid Mohammed Torres, but also the Vizir Gharneet, on the matter; and I have the honour to inclose herewith the English text of the letter sent to the latter through Mr. de Vismes, in the hope that it may meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 6.

Mr. Eliot to Cid Mohammed Torres.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, December 20, 1892.

I AM instructed by Lord Rosebery, Her Majesty's Vizir for Foreign Affairs, to address your Excellency on the subject of the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad.

An inquiry was held before the Basha and the English and Spanish Consuls in this matter, and the Basha himself admitted that the evidence of the Moorish guards was not true and all lies, and it was clear from that inquiry that the said British subject was killed by the Moorish guards, and not by Spaniards.

Instead of pronouncing judgment, the Basha referred the matter to your Excellency, although you had not been present at the trial. It was understood you would decide according to the whole of the evidence presented at the inquiry, and assent to the imprisonment of the guilty soldiers.

Instead of this your Excellency addressed me yesterday a letter in which you simply inclosed five depositions, all by soldiers, saying that the murder was committed by Spaniards, and you said these documents represented the true state of the case. And yet these are the very documents which the Basha admitted to our Consul to be untrue and all lies. Thus your Excellency refuses to do an act of the merest justice to a friendly Power.

I sent the Consul to you yesterday to beg you to change your letter that I might not be obliged to report such unfriendly conduct to my Government, but you refused to change it.

I have informed Lord Rosebery by telegraph of your answer, and I have received orders by telegraph from Lord Rosebery to give you this message, that you may mark it.

Her Majesty's Government will not tolerate that the murderer of a British subject should remain unpunished. I am ordered to send to London an account of the inquiry which was held before the Basha and the British Consul, and if Her Majesty's Government find that the Moorish authorities are shielding the murderer they will take prompt measures to secure reparation.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Mr. Eliot.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Tangier, December 21, 1892.

I RECEIVED your letter dated the 20th December (end of Jumada I), in answer to my reply in the matter of Juan, who was killed, who was one of your subjects, and in which I transmitted the five documents of the evidence given by the guards, and you informed me that you had sent an account of the whole case to the Vizir of Foreign Affairs (Lord Rosebery) by cable, acquainting him of the whole correspondence you had with me regarding this matter, and I understand what Lord Rosebery answered you from what you explained to us, and we took note of it. I wish you to understand that I have done my utmost in this affair, and the result of our investigation and nothing else has been communicated to you. And when you sent me back my letter by the Consul and asked me to change it, I referred the matter to the Sultan and his investigation, and His Majesty's knowledge is wider than ours.

Inclosure 3 in No. 6.

*Mr. Eliot to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.**

(After compliments.)

Tangier, December 22, 1892.

I HAVE read and understood your letters and the assurances of friendship and love which are contained in them, and your request that a Moorish Envoy may be received at London. And the decision of these questions does not rest with me, but with the Queen and the Vizir, Lord Rosebery.

But it is my duty to inform your Excellency that, meanwhile, there has happened at Tangier an event which is more likely to trouble the good relations between the two countries than anything which has happened for a long time. Your Excellency most aptly observed in your letter that it is the habit of wise intermediaries to use their best endeavours to promote good-will and peace, and therefore I appeal to you in this most important manner.

On the night of the 1st December, Juan Trinidad, a British subject, was shot in the streets of Tangier by the Moorish guard. An inquiry was held in the matter before the Basha and the British Consul, and the evidence of the Moors was read, and they said that Trinidad had been shot by Christians, but their evidence did not agree, and was proved to be false, and the Basha admitted openly to the Consul that it was all lies. And Christian witnesses deposed that they saw the Moors fire and kill the man, and all the people of Tangier know that their evidence is true, and at the trial it was clearly proved that they had spoken the truth. And there is no need for the witness of men, for the bullet was extracted from the dead man, and it is a bullet from a gun, and we know its size, and it was proved that it would fit the gun of the Moorish guard, whereas not one of the Christians in question had any gun at all.

And when it had been clearly proved that the murder was committed by the guard, the Basha said he could not pronounce judgment, and referred the matter to Cid Mohammed Torres, though the said Torres had not been present at the trial, and could not know what were the proofs adduced. And the said Torres sent me a message through Sir John Drummond Hay, saying that he would cause the soldiers to be imprisoned. And he did nothing of the sort, but wrote and sent me the five depositions which the Basha himself had said were lies. And I sent back his letter to the said Torres by our Consul, and I implored him to change it and reflect while there was time, and to send me a just and friendly letter, and not raise trouble and misunderstanding between the two Governments. And he was obstinate, and would not change it. Therefore I telegraphed to the Vizir, Lord Rosebery, about the behaviour of the said Torres, and he replied to me by telegraph, commanding me to write to Torres. And I send your Excellency the letter I wrote to him by the Vizir's command that you may see how serious the matter is, and mark it. And I have sent to Lord Rosebery all the evidence of the trial, and it is clear from what I sent that the British subject was killed by Moors.

* This letter was accompanied by another formally acknowledging the receipt of the various letters, and saying they had been sent to London.

Therefore I beg your Excellency to interfere in this matter, and give directions that justice be done here, in order that nothing disagreeable may happen. For this is a case in which there is no doubt. It is not a question of Treaty which one may think good, and another may think it evil, and if at this moment, when Her Majesty's Government are doing all that can be done to show friendship to Morocco, simple justice is refused, the harm will be irremediable. And, above all, be sure that the Government of England will not tolerate that the murderer of an Englishman should go unpunished.

Peace.

No. 7.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 2, 1893.)

(No. 282. Confidential.)

Rome, December 29, 1892.

My Lord,

SIGNOR BRIN handed to me to-day the two despatches from the Italian Minister at Tangier of which I inclose translations, recording his impression of what he had gathered from conversations with Mr. Eliot on the subject of Sir Charles Euan-Smith's language to the Sultan with respect to the question of Tuat, and of the desire expressed by His Majesty for the renewal of cordial relations with England.

The only remark that Signor Brin made on these despatches was that if it was true that Sir Charles Euan-Smith had used the language attributed to him respecting the attitude of England in the question of Tuat, he thought it was unfortunate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VIVIAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Signor Cantagalli to Signor Brin.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Tangier, December 21, 1892.

WHILE talking yesterday with Mr. Eliot, the British Chargé d'Affaires, the conversation fell on the subject of Tuat, regarding which he had the following important statement to make to me:—

It seems that the language which Sir C. Euan-Smith used to the Sultan with respect to the oasis was of such a nature as to give him the impression that Great Britain was proving herself indifferent or disinterested ("disinteressata") concerning the solution of the question, and Sir Charles, on reporting the matter to London, had received a somewhat severe rebuke from Lord Salisbury.

If this is the case, and I have no reason to doubt it, and unless I have misunderstood my colleague, we may perhaps find in the words of the British Plenipotentiary the real reason why His Majesty the Sultan never communicated to us M. Souhart's answer to the Moorish Government's request for explanations. However this may be, I have desired to bring to your Excellency's notice both the fact and my opinions on it.

(Signed) R. CANTAGALLI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Signor Cantagalli to Signor Brin.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Tangier, December 21, 1892.

THE British Chargé d'Affaires has lately received a long letter addressed to him by the Vizir Gharneet,* by command of the Sultan, in which the Shereefian Government professes warm friendship towards Great Britain, and expresses the desire that the relations between the two countries may again become, as they were formerly, intimate and cordial.

* It is one of the letters addressed to Lord Rosebery, not to Mr. Eliot.

This document relates how Morocco concluded a Treaty with Sir J. Hay in 1856; mentions the important questions decided amicably with the late Sir W. K. Green, and declares that the failure to conclude a Treaty with Sir C. Euan-Smith was due to his unexpected departure from the Court.

In the same letter, the Vizir Gharneet informs Mr. Eliot of the commercial concessions granted by His Shereefian Majesty to the French Minister, and communicates the terms of these concessions, in order, so runs the document, that the British Government may know exactly all that was granted to Count d'Aubigny.

I received the above information from Mr. Eliot.

If Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu's Mission to Fez, already reported to your Excellency, was intended to give the Sultan an opportunity of coming to his senses ("per venire a resipiscenza") and of expressing a change of views, the step just taken by His Majesty would appear to be inspired by a similar desire.

We should be happy at this position of affairs. We have contributed in no small measure to this excellent result.

(Signed) R. CANTAGALLI.

No. 8.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 2.)

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 2, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 1, I would solicit your Lordship's instructions whether I should keep secret the terms of the message sent to the Vizir Gharneet demanding reparation for the murder of Juan Trinidad, or whether I should communicate them confidentially to some of my foreign colleagues.

No. 9.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 1.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 2, 1893.

IN reply to your telegram No. 2 of to-day, I see no reason why you should not let your foreign colleagues know the nature of message sent to Moorish Court demanding reparation for Juan Trinidad's murder.

No. 10.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 1. Secret.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 2, 1893.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your observations, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Madrid on the subject of the concessions which Count d'Aubigny is said to have recently obtained from the Sultan of Morocco.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 11.

The Earl of Rosebery to Lord Vivian.

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 4, 1893.

THE Italian Chargé d'Affaires spoke to me to-day on the subject of Morocco. He was instructed by his Government to ask what course Her Majesty's Government propose to take with regard to the concessions made by the Sultan in the matter of a Board of Health for Tangier. I replied that the fact of the communication being made through the French Minister had created some jealousy, but that a more direct communication was, I understood, to be expected from His Shereefian Majesty. Count

* See Part 6, No. 332.

Minerbi added that the question of taxation of foreigners was an important part of the subject. I said that that was so, but Her Majesty's Government would not, in principle, be disposed to place any obstacle in the way of rendering more tolerable the sanitary condition of Tangier, even if such measures involved a small taxation of Europeans.

The Chargé d'Affaires then inquired whether Her Majesty's Government would act with Italy in this matter. I replied that Her Majesty's Representative would be instructed to endeavour to promote general and harmonious action at the meeting of the Representatives of the different Powers. Indeed, in my belief, that was the right policy to be pursued in Morocco, and it was that which Her Majesty's Government desired to follow.

With that object I desired him to inform Signor Brin that we had been compelled to send a message to Fez with regard to the murder of a British subject in the streets of Tangier, stating that, if we did not get a satisfactory reply on that subject within forty-eight hours, we should be obliged to take strong measures.

M. Minerbi thanked me for this information, which he promised to communicate to his Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 12.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 2.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 4, 1893.

I APPROVE Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu's proceedings at Fez, as reported in his despatches Nos. 1 and 2, Confidential, of the 17th and 20th December respectively, of which copies accompanied your despatches Nos. 255 to 257 of the 26th and 27th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 13.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 5, 1893.)

(No. 215. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, December 31, 1892.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 29 of the 28th instant, I went at once to see the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo, and telegraphed to your Lordship the result of my application.

His Excellency then said to me that he was very anxious to speak to me respecting the Concessions made to France by the Emperor of Morocco.

His Excellency had examined them carefully, as he considered the form in which they were granted might cover some attempt to evade the "favoured nation" rights of other countries.

His Excellency believed that a Concession for a railway had been granted, and that four years had been accorded as a preliminary period before the works should commence.

His Excellency hoped that His Majesty's Government would carefully watch the question, as the railway if made "mettrait la France à cheval sur le Maroc."

I called yesterday on the Minister to continue the conversation, but he was interrupted by a summons to one of the Councils at present so frequently held.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 14.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 3.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 6, 1893.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for any observations you may wish to offer, copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome,* forwarding translations of two despatches from the Italian Minister at Tangier, recording his impressions of what you had said to him on the subject of Sir C. Euan-Smith's language to the Sultan respecting Tuat, and of the desire expressed by the Moorish Government for the renewal of friendly relations with this country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 15.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 4.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 6, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 259 of the 28th ultimo, forwarding copies of your correspondence with the Moorish authorities respecting the case of Juan Trinidad, and I have to state to you that your action in this matter is approved.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 15*.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 6, 1893.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury that, in consequence of the present unsatisfactory condition of the relations between this country and Morocco, he has decided to send Colonel the Right Honourable Sir J. West Ridgeway, K.C.B., on a temporary special mission to that country with the object of placing matters on a better footing.

It is not intended that Sir West Ridgeway's mission should last more than six months, during which time Sir C. Euan-Smith, Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, will remain on leave at half-pay.

Sir West Ridgeway has been granted leave of absence from his present duties as Under-Secretary to the Government of Ireland for this period.

Under the circumstances Lord Rosebery requests the sanction of the Lords of the Treasury to the following arrangements, in order that Sir W. Ridgeway may not be financially a loser by the acceptance of this difficult and responsible task.

That during the time of his employment on the mission, Sir West Ridgeway should continue to receive salary at the rate assigned to his present office, viz., 2,000*l.* a-year, which is also the salary attached to the appointment of Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

Lord Rosebery presumes that the payments on this account should be transferred from the Irish Vote to Special Missions, sub-head (M) of the Vote for Diplomatic and Consular Services.

That the expenses of Sir West Ridgeway's journey with his family to Tangier, and of his eventual return to England, with those of his installation in the Legation, but exclusive of actual expenses of maintenance while residing at Tangier, should be defrayed by Her Majesty's Government, and charged to the Vote for Special Missions.

For this latter purpose Lord Rosebery would propose that 670*l.*, the usual outfit allowance of a Minister proceeding to Tangier upon first appointment, should be

* No. 7.

advanced to him in the hope that it may prove sufficient, but upon the understanding that this advance will not exclude consideration of any statement he may subsequently submit showing necessary expenditure in excess of that sum.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 16.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 9.)

(No. 2. Most Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 5, 1893.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs entirely disregards the alleged pretensions of Morocco to evade extending the Concessions granted to the French to the Powers signatory of the Madrid Treaty of 1880.

Article XVII covers all Concessions, whatsoever may be the instrument containing them. His Excellency considers the Concessions to France as being the result of personal motives.

The Railway Concession he thinks also insignificant, as the construction is to be commenced only in four years. The conversation rose out of some newspaper telegrams alluding to a recent article in the "Times."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 17.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 9.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, January 9, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 2, I have the honour to state that I have not up to the present made any official communication, either verbally or in writing, of the terms of the message sent to Fez demanding reparation for the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad, to any of the foreign Representatives. I believed I was acting on your Lordship's telegram No. 1 in mentioning the terms of the message to those who happened to question me on the subject. Among them were the German, Italian, French, and Belgian Ministers.

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No. 18.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 9, 1893.

MURDER of Juan Trinidad: My telegram No. 1 of 2nd instant. You should communicate to your colleagues the message calling upon Moorish Government to give reparation, if you have not already done so.

No. 19.

The Earl of Rosebery to the Marquis of Dufferin.

(No. 6.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 9, 1893.

WITH reference to the communication made to me by M. Waddington on the 30th August last, and recorded in my despatch No. 219 of the following day, as to the desire of the French Government to act in cordial concurrence with that of Her Majesty in the affairs of Morocco, a desire which is fully reciprocated, I request your Excellency to inform M. Ribot that Her Majesty's Government have determined not to send Sir C. Euan-Smith back to Tangier, and that, as they do not wish at once to appoint his successor or to leave his place unfilled, they have desired Sir West Ridgeway to proceed on a temporary mission to Tangier. They are the more impelled to this course, because they have recently found by experience that it is impossible to obtain from the Moorish Government proper attention to the representations of Her Majesty's Legation, or the barest justice to British subjects.

Sir West Ridgeway will receive instructions to act in close cooperation with the other Representatives of foreign Powers, and especially with that of France, because Her Majesty's Government are convinced that in the delicate and critical condition of the Moorish Empire, and in the present temper of the Sultan and his advisers, it is only by a sincere and unselfish co-operation of all the Powers that any favourable result can be obtained.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 20.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 10.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 10, 1893.

MURDER of Juan Trinidad.

I have just received a messenger from Fez bringing an answer from Cid Emfadl Gharneet to the letter which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my despatch No. 259 of the 28th December.

This answer is to the effect that the Sultan will examine the documentary evidence sent him from Tangier and punish the guards if their guilt is proved.

Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu thinks that the Moorish Government will yield on this question.

It would seem that the letter which I had the honour to transmit in my despatch No. 1 of the 1st instant arrived at Fez about Sunday, the 8th. One may therefore look for an answer about the end of this week.

No. 21.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 1, 1893.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 74 of 31st December, 1892, instructing me to send to Fez "as proposed," I at once addressed to Cid Emfadl Gharneet the note, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith, drawn up in the terms proposed, but giving a limit of forty-eight hours.

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I have likewise the honour to inclose a copy of the despatch which I addressed to Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu on the subject.

The despatches which I have received from Mr. de Vismes, and which should be now in your Lordship's hands, seem to show that Cid Emfadl Gharneet is at present more shamelessly mendacious than usual, and I have, therefore, felt it necessary to insist on some binding document being given to Mr. de Vismes within the forty-eight hours, though I have told him that if the necessary orders are sent here through Cid Mohammed Torres (the usual method of procedure), it will doubtless be sufficient.

The note was dispatched to-day, but the weather is at present very bad, and will delay the best courier. I think it will probably be ten days before an answer can be received, and if the rivers in the interior are much swollen even a longer period may elapse.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Mr. Eliot to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

(Compliments.)

Tangier, December 31, 1892.
I HAD the honour to send to your Excellency on the 22nd December a letter respecting the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad, and to lay before you all the facts of the case. I doubt not that your Excellency, with your usual discrimination and justice, has already convinced yourself of the necessity of at once granting proper reparation, and has dispatched the necessary orders.

These orders have, however, not yet arrived at Tangier, and I have no alternative but to inform you that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the conduct of the local authorities, and specially of Cid Mohammed Torres in shielding the murderers, has been such as to necessitate immediate measures of an exceptional character. I am ordered by the Vizier for Foreign Affairs, Lord Rosebery, to inform you that Her Majesty's Government insist on the payment of 5,000 dollars' indemnity to the relatives of the murdered man, and the imprisonment of the guards who committed the murder, and on the Sultan marking his displeasure at the conduct of Cid Mohammed Torres. The courier who brings this will wait forty-eight hours at Fez, and I doubt not that you will before the expiry of that period give Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu a written statement that you acquiesce in these most just conditions. In the regrettable event of your not giving Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu such a written statement within forty-eight hours from the delivery of this letter to you, it is my duty to inform you that certain of Her Majesty's ships of war will come to Tangier to do what is necessary.

I feel sure that this contingency will not be realized, and that the wise and statesmanlike policy of your Excellency will avoid the occurrence of such differences between the two countries, and will confirm their friendly relations.

Peace.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Mr. Eliot to Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu.

Sir,

Tangier, December 31, 1892.
I HAVE to instruct you to deliver the inclosed letter to Cid Emfadl Gharneet immediately on its reaching your hands.

It is, as you will perceive, a demand in the name of Her Majesty's Government for adequate reparation for the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad, within forty-eight hours. You should say that if at the expiry of that time the Vizier does not give you a document promising the points stipulated in the despatch, the courier is to be sent back to Tangier without delay, and on his return without the required assurances the requisite steps will be taken to summon the men-of-war.

Should you apprehend that the courier may be tampered with, or otherwise purposely detained on his return journey, you should add that if no answer is received

within ten days from the date of his departure from Tangier, the men-of-war will be equally summoned. This period is fixed on the assumption that the courier will, in the present bad weather, take four days to make the journey.

Your recent despatches seem to show that the temper of the Vizier is at present unusually mendacious and shifty, and it is therefore necessary to insist upon a written answer signed by him, or some equally binding document, such as an Imperial letter, being sent to me by the courier. No doubt if the requisite orders for the imprisonment of the murderers, payment of indemnity, &c., are immediately sent to Tangier, it would be sufficient, but I do not think that any verbal promise can be depended on. You must therefore warn the Vizier that if he does not give you the written answer desired, you cannot be responsible for the consequences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 22.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 1 A.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 1, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of this date, I have the honour to report to your Lordship, lest it should be supposed that the negotiations respecting the murder of the British subject at Tangier were imperilled by fixing a limit of ten days "on the assumption that the courier would take four days to make the journey," that my official instruction to Mr. de Vismes was accompanied by a private letter desiring him to use his discretion and local knowledge should the said assumption prove erroneous, and laying stress on the fact that the time-limit was to be mentioned only if he thought that it was likely that the courier would either be made the victim of a trick, or be exposed to difficulties occasioned by the weather, which might be lessened by special orders from the Moorish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 23.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 3. Very Confidential.)

Tangier, January 2, 1893.

My Lord,

SOME time ago M. Cantagalli, the Italian Minister, spoke to me about the murder of the British subject Juan Trinidad. I expressed my opinion that it was a grave case, which could not be allowed to drop, and M. Cantagalli said he should take an opportunity of advising the Sultan's Agent here to be reasonable. I thanked him for this offer.

The day before yesterday M. Cantagalli read me a letter he had written to Colonel Bregoli at Fez saying that I had requested his Excellency to use his good offices in the matter, and almost asserting that I had asked directly that Colonel Bregoli should have an audience of the Sultan and press His Majesty to accord satisfaction. I thanked M. Cantagalli again, but reminded him I had never asked spontaneously for his good offices, and that in particular we had never mentioned the name of Colonel Bregoli or discussed anything but friendly advice to be given to the Sultan's Agent at Tangier.

M. Cantagalli said hastily, and as it seemed to me somewhat illogically, that Colonel Bregoli was a simple soldier, and it was necessary to put things plainly to him. He had faithfully reproduced my conversation in a despatch he had sent to Rome. He did not, however, show me this latter document.

On receiving your Lordship's instructions to send a demand for satisfaction to Fez, this incident appeared to me to have a certain importance. The Sultan and Cid Gharneet will no doubt consult the Agents of foreign Powers at Fez. M. Bregoli has probably already advised, or certainly will advise, His Majesty to grant justice. On the other hand, no message had to the best of my knowledge been sent to Dr. Linares, the French Agent, who has the reputation of being an Anglophobe, and also of acting without instructions from his Legation. He might therefore take upon himself to

advise the Sultan (as he is thought to have done on other occasions) to pay no attention to the remonstrances of Her Majesty's Government, representing them as mere words which would not be followed by any action.

These considerations induced me to speak to Count d'Aubigny on the subject. After explaining to him the facts of the case, I informed him that I had just dispatched to Fez a peremptory note respecting the murder. I had no instructions to communicate the terms of the note or to ask for his support, but I thought it right to inform him privately that M. Cantagalli had offered to use his good offices at Fez, and I should be sorry if this led to the erroneous impression that the assistance of Italy had been invited while no communication had been made to the French Legation. I had no authority to ask for the co-operation of either Italy or France, and merely wished to guard against a possible misunderstanding. Count d'Aubigny said, in reply, that he was very glad to receive this communication, as otherwise mistakes might have arisen. He would send a courier this afternoon to Fez and instruct Dr. Linares to support our demands that reparation should be made. He added that he thought there was little doubt that the Sultan would assent to the imprisonment of the guilty parties and the payment of a fair indemnity. His Majesty was not willing to make concessions which might increase foreign influence, but he was far more disposed to do justice than any of his subordinates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 24.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 4. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 2, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 251, Confidential, of the 19th December, 1892, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have this day dispatched to Fez, simultaneously with the Italian Minister, the note respecting the ill-treatment of the Jews of Morocco city, transmitted to your Lordship therein.

I should have wished to have dispatched this note much sooner, but M. Cantagalli was anxious to wait till the Spanish Minister was ready to dispatch his note. As, however, M. Figuera has received no instructions on the subject, and does not seem to expect any, his co-operation is regarded as hopeless.

I believe that the Representatives of Portugal, America, and Belgium will send nearly identical notes either to-morrow or very shortly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 25.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a despatch which I have received from Mr. de Vismes Ponthieu at Fez respecting the proposals made to him indirectly by the Moorish Court, respecting the reception of a Moorish Mission in London, and his reply to the same.

Mr. de Vismes had evidently not then received a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 125 of the 5th ultimo which I sent him. That despatch, in spite of its date, only arrived at Tangier on the 20th ultimo, and at the present time a courier seems to take about seven days to reach Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Fez, December 26, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to report that two days ago Kaïd Maclean informed me that he had been sounded by some members of the Sherrefian Court as to the likelihood of my listening to and endeavouring to further a proposal that a Mission should be sent by the Sultan of Morocco to the Queen, one of the objects of which would be to obtain an exchange of assurances between the two Governments relating to the territorial integrity of Morocco. The idea entertained, as far as I could understand, was that England might sign a Self-denying Declaration, and Morocco, on the other hand, would undertake to alienate no part of her territory without the consent of Great Britain.

As the source from which these inquiries proceeded appeared to render them worthy of attention, I authorized Kaïd Maclean, should the subject again be adverted to, to say that he had spoken to me on the subject and that I had given him to understand that I was entirely without instructions to guide me in such a matter, but that whilst the idea of a Moorish Mission going to England commended itself to my private judgment, I was strongly of opinion that it was necessary as a prelude to such a proposal that the Moorish Government should give Her Majesty's Government some palpable and evident proof of their friendship, considering particularly the manner in which Her Majesty's Government had recently evidenced their good-will towards this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

No. 26.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 3, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translation of a communication which I received some time ago from Cid Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Agent at Tangier, respecting the intention of the Sultan to punish the tribe of Oolad Zian, and desiring me to instruct the Vice-Consul at Daralbaida to warn British subjects to withdraw within a month their protection and partnership from any members of that tribe who might be in their employ.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of my reply to this note, which is substantially identical with that of the French and Italian Legations, and to the effect that, as British as well as Moorish interests are concerned, a longer period than a month should be allowed, if necessary, to liquidate affairs.

The Italian and French Legations, as well as myself, received replies from our respective Consuls at Daralbaida to the effect that it is perfectly impossible to dissolve such partnerships without very serious loss in the period of a month, and that six months or a year would be required, as the engagements entered into between Europeans and natives in this part of the world generally concern such transactions as giving money to sow corn or to secure the wool of sheep which will not be shorn for many months. Hence the partnerships can hardly be brought to a close before harvest or shearing time. Further, though we can hardly dispute the right of the Sultan to punish his own subjects, the manner in which it is proposed to distribute such punishment involves the most iniquitous injustice to British as well as Moorish subjects. After the expiry of the month's notice the tribe of Oolad Zian may be raided, on account of the rebellion of a small fraction of it. In such raids there is no question who is guilty or not, and people are punished in proportion to their wealth, not to their disaffection or crimes. Naturally the first to suffer will be those who have been under foreign protection and have still some Christian's money.

Under these circumstances, the French Minister and myself addressed a second representation to Cid Mohammed Torres, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of my note herewith.

There is reason to hope that in this particular case the difficulty will be smoothed over, as it is said that the Oolad Zian have made their peace with the Sultan. But the incident is one which may easily recur. In such a case I should propose, subject to your Lordship's approval, that the Moorish authorities be informed that, on the one

hand, Her Majesty's Government fully admit that British protection should never be abused so as to shield criminals or those against whom personally the Moorish Government have a claim; but that, on the other, we cannot allow that the Sultan has a right to injure British interests by punishing persons who are perfectly innocent, and whose only crime is that they belong to a tribe, some members of which (with whom perhaps they have hardly any connection) are accused of rebellion or of not paying their taxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 26.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Sir C. Euan-Smith.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, 11 Jumada I, 1310 (December 2, 1892).*
I HAVE to inform you that a portion of the Medinna tribe near Daralbaida known as Oolad Zian are rebels against the Government, besides which a disturbance has arisen among them in consequence of which property has been stolen and men and horses have been killed, and a number of people have been wounded. Shereefian orders have been received to punish them and take Government dues out of them, so that they may be restrained from their rebellion and others may thereby be deterred. Therefore I give warning through you to every merchant who is a subject or protégé of your nation, and has any man of Oolad Buzian in his partnership and employ to withdraw such from him within a month from this date, as the Government intends to exercise authority over (punish) the Oolad Buzian for the reason stated.

I ask you to inform your Vice-Consuls at Daralbaida of this so that they may give notice to your subjects and protégés.

Peace.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

Mr. Eliot to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, December 5, 1892.*
I HAVE received your Excellency's letter of the 2nd instant, informing me that a portion of the Medinna tribe near Daralbaida known as Oolad Zian are rebels against the Government, and requesting me to warn all British subjects or protégés who have any man of this tribe in their partnership or employ to withdraw such from him within a month from this date.

According to your request I have sent a copy of your Excellency's note to the British Vice-Consul at Daralbaida and ordered him to warn British subjects and protégés as you desire.

But as in this matter both the interests of the Moorish Government and of British subjects are equally involved, it is necessary that both should be considered. I cannot judge what is the amount of British commercial interests affected by the position of the Oolad Zian, but it is clearly possible that in some cases they may be great and that it would be impossible to arrange the affair in the space of a month in a manner which would be just to the British subject. I doubt not that your Excellency will see the justice of this and trust that the Governor of Daralbaida may be authorized to discuss each particular case with the Consul, and that if it is shown in any case that the forced winding-up of affairs in a month is not possible without prejudice to British interests, that the period in question may be extended for that particular case.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

Mr. Eliot to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(After compliments.) *Tangier, December 18, 1892.*
IN my letter of the 5th December (14 Jumada) I had the honour to inform your Excellency that I would transmit to the British Vice-Consul at Daralbaida a copy of your warning to the effect that the tribe of Oolad Zian are rebels against the

Government, and that British subjects or protégés who have any men of this tribe in their partnership or employ must withdraw such from them within a month from this date.

If at the same time informed your Excellency that, in this matter, the interests of both the Moorish Government and of British subjects were equally involved, and that it was necessary both should be considered; and that, should it prove in any case to be impossible to arrange for the withdrawal of British protection in the space of a month in a manner which would be just to the British subject, I doubted not that your Excellency would see that the period must be extended for that particular case.

I have now received a Report from the British Vice-Consul at Daralbaida, from which it appears that the interests involved are much more serious than I had supposed, and that it is utterly impossible that the British protection should be withdrawn within the above-mentioned period of a month without inflicting serious and unmerited injury on British trade. For instance, many persons have commissioned their agents to buy the wool of sheep which will not be shorn before April next, and have given their agents money, and they have advanced it to the owners of the sheep. How is it possible that the partnership with these men should be dissolved in a month without causing great loss to the British partner?

Further, it would appear that only a portion of the tribe Oolad Zian, namely, that known as "near the river," has been in rebellion, and that only two British employés belong to this section, and that neither of them took any part in the disturbance.

Under these circumstances I have to request your Excellency to issue directions that, in the event of the Oolad Zian being punished, the persons mentioned in the inclosed list should be respected. Seeing that is impossible to terminate their partnership without injury to British interests under the period of six months or longer, and that the British Vice-Consul at Daralbaida certifies that they have none of them had any connection with the recent disturbances. For it would be a gross injustice if British subjects incur loss because Moorish subjects, who are their partners, and who have personally done no wrong against the Moorish Government, are punished for the misdeeds of their tribesmen. I warn your Excellency that if under such circumstances British interests suffer damage, I have no alternative but to hold the Moorish Government responsible for the same.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 27.

The Howard Association to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

My Lord,
5, Bishopsgate Without, London, January 10, 1893.
WILL you permit me very respectfully to invite your perusal of my letter in the "Times" of last Saturday (inclosed)* respecting the long existing and prevalent cruelties in Morocco, and to express an earnest hope that, although that country is independent of ours, yet that, in the interests of outraged humanity, your Lordship may be willing and able to exert some influence upon the Sultan towards diminishing the evils now complained of.

The Committee of this Association have long had these cruelties reported to them, but owing to the peculiar circumstances of the case, they felt almost unable to do anything in the matter.

Two gentlemen of their body—Mr. Henry Gurney, of Nutwood, Reigate, and Mr. Donald Mackenzie—who have each personally visited Morocco, have brought reliable information as to the reality and prevalence of these cruelties. And a lady—a member of the Society of Friends, Miss Charlotte Hanbury, of Dynevor House, Richmond, Surrey, who is well known to us, and who has several times visited Morocco—has also informed us as to these matters. So, too, has a correspondent in Southern Morocco, of known respectability. Hence we hope that you will regard the statement inclosed as an authentic one.

I may mention that Mr. Gurney and Miss Hanbury would willingly wait upon your Lordship personally, if so desired by you, in order to answer any questions you might wish to put to them on this subject.

* Not printed.

We hope that through your new Envoy, Colonel Sir J. West Ridgeway, your Lordship may be able to induce the Sultan to establish regular Courts of real Justice and international Courts, as in Egypt. Also, that the existing system of foreign protégés may be modified so as to prevent its present great and cruel abuses in the name of European nations.

There appears to be reason to fear that petty jealousy of England on the part of France has largely tended in Morocco to counteract too successfully the efforts already made by Sir C. Euan-Smith to lessen these cruelties. And as in Egypt so in Morocco, French or other adverse foreign influence greatly complicates matters, and exceedingly impedes reform.

Nevertheless, we hope that your Lordship's wise statesmanship may, under the blessing of the Highest, avail to secure some progress in the work of humanity in Morocco.

I may just add that, being one of the Deputation who lately listened to your speech on Uganda at the Foreign Office, I was much impressed by your Lordship's prudence and ability. Hence, I cannot but entertain a lively hope that in regard to Morocco also the country and the world may expect something good from your efforts.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM TALLACK, Secretary.

No. 28.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 11, 1893.

WITH reference to my last preceding telegram, I have the honour to report that I have just received a written communication from Cid Mohammed Torres to the effect that the Sultan has ordered the imprisonment of the soldiers charged with the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad.

I have received no further news from Fez.

No. 29.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 2.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, January 12, 1893.

AN article has appeared in the newspaper the "Imparcial," which seems to be inspired, stating that the Spanish Government will demand the maintenance of the *status quo* in Morocco from all the Powers, and that should England send men-of-war to Tangier, or land troops there, Spain will see herself compelled to do the same.

No. 30.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 12.)

(No. 3. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, January 12, 1893.

THE Spanish Minister of State informed me to-day that the Spanish Minister at Tangier had been informed by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires there of the nature of the English demands, and had said, in reply, that, as in the Anghara case, he thought matters could be arranged without the necessity of sending ships to that port.

Instructions have been sent to the Spanish Representative to act with the same prudence as he did in the case of Anghara.

I assured the Minister of State of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to act in accord with the Spanish Government, and I informed his Excellency that, should the Moorish Government refuse satisfaction, it would be necessary to send a ship.

His Excellency said that Spain, wishing to act in accord with England in Moorish affairs, would likewise send a ship. He expressed a wish, at the same time, that he should be informed by Her Majesty's Government of the class of ship they intended to send, so that the Spanish Government might send one of a similar kind.

(Secret and Confidential.)

The Ambassadors of Austria and Germany tell me that the French Ambassador is very active in sowing distrust of England, and they are therefore very anxious that the Spanish Government should act cordially with Her Majesty's Government in Morocco.

No. 31.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir E. Malet.*

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 12, 1893.

SHOULD the subject of Sir W. Ridgeway's mission be the subject of inquiry by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, you may state that it has no special character, and that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier has been directed to explain its nature fully to his colleagues.

No. 32.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir A. Paget.†

(No. 5 A.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 12, 1893.

IN conversation to-day I informed the Austrian Ambassador that I did not intend to send Sir C. Euan-Smith back to Morocco, but proposed to dispatch Sir W. Ridgeway on a mission there, until a successor to Sir Charles could be appointed.

I should not instruct Sir West to proceed to Fez unless events took a different turn to my anticipations.

But things were in an unsatisfactory state in Morocco. Indeed we had lately been obliged to send a summary message to the Sultan demanding redress for the murder of a British subject. Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government felt that the presence of a British Minister at Tangier was indispensable.

Sir West would receive instructions to co-operate cordially with the Representatives of the Governments most interested in Morocco, where I thought the Great Powers had a common interest, and where I was convinced that without common action nothing could be done.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 33.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 13.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 12, 1893.

I DULY acquainted M. Ribot, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, with the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 6 of the 9th January in reference to Sir West Ridgeway's mission to Morocco; and although my communication reached his Excellency in the midst of a Ministerial crisis, he was so much gratified by the assurances which your Lordship instructed me to transmit to him, that, through the medium of a private letter, he has expressed to me his gratitude in the warmest terms.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

* Also to Lord Vivian (No. 1), and Sir H. Drummond Wolff (No. 1).

† Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 17 B), and Lord Vivian (No. 8 A)

No. 34.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(Received January 13.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, January 12, 1893.*
THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them Sir Villiers Lister's letter of the 6th instant, respecting the Special Mission of Sir West Ridgeway to Morocco, and direct me to signify to you their concurrence in the arrangements proposed by the Earl of Rosebery on the occasion.

During the time that the Mission lasts, Sir C. Euan-Smith, Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco, will remain on leave on half-pay, and Sir West Ridgeway will draw no salary as Under-Secretary for Ireland, but will draw a salary of 2,000*l.* per annum from the Special Missions Sub-head of the Diplomatic and Consular Vote.

Sir West Ridgeway will, of course, be repaid his travelling expenses in going to and returning from Morocco.

His ordinary expenses of maintenance at Tangier will form a charge on his salary; but there are various expenses of installation which would fall with special weight on a person appointed for so short a time as six months, and which must be reimbursed to him. My Lords therefore agree that, for these expenses of installation and for travelling expenses, the full outfit attached to the post of Minister in Morocco, viz., 670*l.*, may be advanced to him, in the hope that it will cover all the expenses in question. Should it not do so, however, my Lords will be prepared to consider any recommendation for a moderate addition that the Secretary of State may see fit to make.

It will be right to collect all the expenses of the Mission together under the Special Missions Sub-head.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANK MOWATT.

No. 35.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 13.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January 13, 1893.*

THE Spanish Minister at Tangier, I am told, has telegraphed that he has been informed by Mr. Eliot that Sir West Ridgeway will arrive accompanied by only one man-of-war.

The papers here have this morning a telegram from London stating that, according to the "Times" newspaper, an imposing fleet will accompany the British Mission to Morocco. This has caused considerable excitement in the Madrid press.

I propose to communicate to-day to the Minister of State the purport of your Lordship's telegram No. 1.

No. 36.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 13.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January 13, 1893.*

I HAVE seen the Minister of State, who informs me that the Spanish Representative at Tangier telegraphs that, in his opinion, the Moorish Government will yield to your Lordship's demands, the delay being only caused by the difficulty of communicating with Fez, owing to the bad weather. Instructions have been sent to the Spanish Minister to assist Mr. Eliot.

The Minister of State is much gratified by your Lordship's telegram No. 2.

No. 37.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 13, 1893.*
SHOULD it become necessary to send a British man-of-war to Tangier, I will take care to inform the Spanish Government of the class of vessel selected. I hope, however, that no such step will be required.

Her Majesty's Government have from the first (*vide* my telegram No. 29 of the 28th December) been most anxious to act in this matter in co-operation with the Spanish Government, and we have a right to expect reciprocal confidence.

No. 38.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 13, 1893.*
I HAVE to acquaint you that Sir Charles Euan-Smith will not return to Tangier, and that, as Her Majesty's Government do not wish at once to appoint his successor or to leave his place unfilled, they have desired Sir J. West Ridgeway to proceed on a temporary mission to Morocco.

They are the more impelled to this course, because they have recently found, by experience, that it is impossible to obtain from the Moorish Government proper attention to the representations of Her Majesty's Legation, or the barest justice to British subjects.

Sir West Ridgeway will receive instructions to act in close co-operation with the other Representatives of foreign Powers, because Her Majesty's Government are convinced that in the delicate and critical condition of the Moorish Empire, and in the present temper of the Sultan and his advisers, it is only by a sincere and unselfish co-operation of all the Powers that a favourable result can be obtained.

You should communicate the substance of this despatch to your foreign colleagues in general terms.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 39.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 14.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, January 14, 1893.*
WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 3, I have the honour to state that my conversations yesterday with the Minister of State, founded on your Lordship's telegrams, have settled matters. The Spanish Government are quite satisfied, and have expressed themselves in that sense to the Representatives of Germany, Austria, and Italy.

No. 40.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, January 14, 1893.*
YOUR telegram No. 4 of the 13th instant. It would be matter for great regret were the Spanish Government to give more credence to reports in the newspapers than to assurances given by Her Majesty's Government, and I cannot believe it possible. The statement made by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier was that in the event of no redress being obtained for the murder of Juan Trinidad, a British man-of-war would be dispatched to Tangier. But this has no connection with the mission of Sir West Ridgeway, in regard to which both your Excellency and the Spanish Ambassador here have been kept fully informed by me.

No. 41.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 8. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 14, 1893.

I APPROVE the language you held in conversation with your French and Italian colleagues in regard to the murder of the British subject at Tangier, Juan Trinidad, as reported in your despatch No. 3, Very Confidential, of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 42.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 15.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, January 15, 1893.

I THINK it would be well if Her Majesty's Government would of their own accord inform Spanish Government of the length of time the man-of-war conveying Sir West Ridgeway to Tangier will remain in that port. This was done when Sir O. Euan-Smith went there last year.

(Secret and Confidential.)

I believe that the reason why the Spanish Government are afraid of the appearance of a British squadron at Tangier is that, while they are desirous of following the example of Her Majesty's Government in all Moorish affairs, they know that the state of the Spanish fleet does not allow of an efficient squadron being sent to Tangier.

No. 43.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 16.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Rome, January 12, 1893.

SIGNOR BRIN spoke to me to-day about the affairs of Morocco.

He said that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at London had reported his interview with your Lordship (recorded in your despatch No. 5 of the 4th instant) respecting the means of carrying out the sanitary reforms at Tangier, for which Concessions had been obtained from the Sultan, and that, entirely agreeing in your Lordship's view as to the policy of endeavouring to promote general and harmonious action between the Representatives of all the different Powers in Morocco on this and every other question which might arise there, he authorized me to inform you that he would send instructions in this sense to the Italian Minister, though he feared there would be difficulty in bringing about such a general concert.

With respect to our demand for satisfaction for the murder of a British subject in the streets of Tangier, his Excellency remarked that, according to the account he had received from Signor Cantagalli (which, however, was dated the 10th December) there were different versions current as to the origin and circumstances of this unfortunate incident, from which it did not appear quite clear that the Moorish guards had committed the act; but he hoped, and did not doubt, that Her Majesty's Government would receive the satisfaction they demanded. He asked me whether, if it were refused, we should send men-of-war to Tangier.

I said that in such case I presumed that we should have to bring some pressure to bear to enforce our demand.

With respect to Sir West Ridgeway's mission, his Excellency said that he did not require to be assured that Her Majesty's Government would not attempt to secure any exclusive privileges or advantages in Morocco which would not be shared by other countries, and he had regretted to observe that certain French newspapers had impugned our good faith in this respect. His Excellency added that the Italian Agent was instructed to support the mission we were sending out.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VIVIAN.

No. 44.

Sir E. Malet to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 16.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Berlin, January 14, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in the course of conversation with me yesterday, Baron von Marschall touched incidentally upon the appointment of Sir West Ridgeway, and that I took the opportunity to speak in the terms of your Lordship's telegram to me No. 4 of the 12th instant, to the effect that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier would give full explanation to his colleagues as to Sir West's mission, which had no special plan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

No. 45.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 9.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 7 of the 3rd instant, inclosing copies of correspondence between yourself and Cid Mohammed Torres in regard to the request of the Moorish Government that British subjects should be warned to withdraw within a month their protection and partnership from any members of the tribe of Oolad Zian, as it was the intention of the Sultan of Morocco to take steps to punish that tribe.

Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings as reported, as well as the nature of the further communication which, in the event of its becoming necessary to do so, you propose to address to the Moorish Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 46.

The Earl of Rosebery to the Marquis of Dufferin.

(No. 16.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1893.

THE French Ambassador asked me to-day if I had taken any action with reference to the ill-treatment of Jews in Morocco.

I told his Excellency that I had instructed Mr. Eliot to make representations on the subject, and obtain as far as he could the co-operation of his colleagues. The question was one in which I took a deep interest. The condition of the Jews in Morocco was a disgrace; and while representations on their behalf might do good, they could scarcely, at any rate, do harm. But in this, as in all else relating to Morocco, the honest and cordial co-operation of the Powers was a *sine quâ non*. This was the basis of the policy pursued by Her Majesty's Government, as I had explained to his Excellency when I first came into office, and as I had more recently assured M. Ribot.

M. Waddington then took the occasion to thank me for my spontaneous communication to M. Ribot respecting the character of Sir West Ridgeway's mission. His Excellency concurred with me in thinking that frank co-operation between the Powers was the only method of dealing with Morocco. The policy of the French Government, as he was again authorized to assure me, was the maintenance of the *status quo*. They had indeed one subject of difference with the Moorish Government—that of the Oasis of Tuat, which was situated some 700 miles away from the Mediterranean. But that was really a question of Algerian police, and one which concerned France and Morocco alone.

On this latter point I expressed no opinion, and I forbore from making any inquiries as to the result of Count d'Aubigny's mission to Fez.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 47.

*The Earl of Rosebery to Lord Vivian.**

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1893.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier,† informing him of the circumstances under which Her Majesty's Government have decided to dispatch Sir J. West Ridgeway on a temporary mission to Morocco.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 48.

Foreign Office to Lord Rothschild.

(Confidential.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1893.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to inform your Lordship, confidentially, that Mr. Eliot, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, has reported that, on the 2nd instant, he and his Italian colleague dispatched to Fez an identic note calling the attention of the Moorish Government to the cruelties inflicted on the Jews of Morocco City.

It had been Mr. Eliot's wish to have dispatched this note much sooner; but the Italian Minister was anxious for delay, in the vain hope that their Spanish colleague would be instructed by his Government to join them in their protest against the proceedings of the Kaïd Mohammed Ouida.

Mr. Eliot adds that he believes that the Representative of Portugal, Belgium, and the United States would very shortly send nearly identic notes on the same subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 49.

Foreign Office to the Howard Association.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 16, 1893.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, in which you call attention to the cruelties practised on Moorish subjects in Morocco, and urge that his Lordship should use his influence with a view to the establishment of Mixed Courts of Justice and the modification of the protection system in that country.

I am, in reply, to state to you that the matters to which your letter relates have long engaged the attention of this Department, and that Lord Rosebery will not lose sight of them.

As, however, the present moment does not appear to afford a favourable opportunity for taking any immediate action in the direction indicated, his Lordship fears that it would serve no useful purpose for him to grant an interview to Mr. Gurney and Miss Hanbury as suggested in your communication under reply.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 50.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 10.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 11, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 9, Confidential, of the 9th instant, respecting possible attempts to contend that the concessions granted to Count d'Aubigny are exempt from the operation of the most-favoured-nation clause, I sent to the Custom-

* Also to Sir E. Malet (No. 20), Sir A. Paget (No. 7), and Sir H. Drummond Wolff (No. 8).
† No. 38.

house yesterday to inquire what would be the duty paid by the imports and exports named in them if coming from or going to England. The reply was that the duties had been reduced at the request of the French Minister, but that the origin or destination of the goods was immaterial, all countries being treated alike. The practice of the Moorish officials appears accordingly to be perfectly correct.

I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the letter to the port authorities inclosed in Cid Gharneet's letter of 14 Jumada I, 1310, to your Lordship, a copy of which was furnished for my use.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Translation of a copy of what has been written to Custom-house Officers in the Eight Ports.

To our servants at the port of Tetuan.
(After compliments.)

22 Rebia Elthang, 1310.

THE French Minister has demanded some changes in their Commercial Treaty made between the two countries on the 26th Shaban of 1260. The things in which some change has been asked are the first six items mentioned in the list on the other side of this.*

Concerning the eight things also mentioned, the exportation of which was forbidden formerly but is allowed now, according to the annexed Tariff, we order you to allow their exportation according to the Tariff on the right side;* but with the condition that the merchant who wishes to buy five of the above-mentioned eight things, viz., (1) bark, (2) cork, (3) copper, (4) iron, and (5) other minerals except lead, should buy them from Moorish subjects at the eight ports open to trade, and shall not buy them at other places.

Concerning the first six items mentioned, we order you to take their Tariffs as explained on the right side.

All other articles, besides the said fourteen things, of manufacture or produce which are exported from Morocco shall remain according to the conditions that are in current use at present. The produce imported to Morocco from French countries shall remain as now. But articles made of silk, whether finished or raw, jewellery of gold and silver, jewels, real or false, rubies, gold lace, all kinds of wines and distilled spirits and "pâtes alimentaires" should not be taxed more than 5 per cent., and the taxation should be made according to the net price of the thing sold wholesale and in the port of its disembarkation. The taxation should be in reals.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 51.

Consul-General Playfair to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 17.)

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Algiers, January 12, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 14 dated the 6th December, 1892, I have the honour to forward a cutting from the "Dépêche Algérienne" concerning the expedition of M. Méry to the south.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. LAMBERT PLAYFAIR.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Extract from the "Dépêche Algérienne" of January 12, 1893.

L'EXPLORATEUR Gaston Méry, dont nous avons parlé à plusieurs reprises, avec une réserve que nous imposait l'importance de la Mission, a quitté El Oued le 30 Décembre dernier, se rendant au pays des Touaregs Azger avec une importante caravane.

* This and similar expressions refer to the writing in the margin of the letter. It corresponds exactly with the French version of the Tariff.

Celle-ci ne comprend pas moins de vingt-deux "mehara" montés par de hardi-cavaliers du désert, armés de fusils à tir rapide et de quarante-quatre chameaux de charge portant des vivres pour 150 jours, ainsi qu'un stock considérable de marchands dises en vue d'échanges et de cadeaux.

Quarante hommes bien armés accompagnent le convoi.

Au point de vue scientifique, M. Méry est accompagné de trois Français chargés spécialement des travaux et études à effectuer en ce sens.

Par tout ce qui précède, on voit que la Mission Méry est une des plus importantes qui ait encore été envoyée dans le désert.

Quant à son itinéraire et à son but dernier, ils sont toujours tenus rigoureusement secrets.

Néanmoins nous pouvons dire que l'objet général de la Mission consiste à établir, entre les possessions Françaises de l'Afrique du Nord et le Soudan, des relations commerciales qui, jusqu'à ce jour, ont été monopolisées au Maroc et à Tripoli par les Anglais et les Allemands.

Nous souhaitons toute la réussite possible au vaillant explorateur et exprimons l'espoir que l'Algérie tirera un jour avantage et profit de son périlleux voyage.—E. G.

No. 52.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery—(Received January 17.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 14, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 122 of the 3rd December, 1892, I have the honour to inclose herewith a translation of the note which I have received in answer to mine of the 21st December, in which I pointed out to his Excellency that Cape Juby was treated as a British Colony by the Board of Health in the Canaries in regard to quarantine.

Your Lordship will perceive that the Marquis de la Vega de Armigo has requested his colleague, the Minister of the Interior, to report on the matter, and will communicate to me the reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 52.

The Marquis de la Vega de Armigo to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Madrid, January 8, 1893.

IN reply to your Excellency's note of the 21st December last, I have the honour to inform you that I have requested my colleague, the Minister of the Interior, to obtain from the authorities at Palma a full report, so as to verify the statements made by the "North-West African Company" with regard to the imposition of quarantine on the steam-ship "Sahara" coming from Cape Juby.

As soon as I receive a reply from the Minister of the Interior I will communicate it to your Excellency.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) MARQUIS DE VEGA DE ARMIGO.

No. 53.

The London Chamber of Commerce to the Earl of Rosebery—(Received January 17.)

My Lord,

Botolph House, Eastcheap, London, January 16, 1893.

THIS Chamber has noticed, with satisfaction, that it is the intention of your Lordship (assuming the newspaper statements to be correct) to dispatch a Special Envoy to Tangier.

Judging by the action taken by your Department in the past with regard to Morocco, we have little doubt that the new Envoy will be duly instructed to take

every available opportunity of urging His Shereefian Majesty to enter into more satisfactory commercial relations with Her Majesty's Government. We are particularly desirous that provision should, when possible, be made in regard to the export from Morocco to this country of corn, cattle, and minerals; to the holding of property in Morocco; and, later on, perhaps, to the establishment of more satisfactory means of communication between the coast and the interior.

The Chamber is also satisfied that your Lordship is fully alive to the necessity of keeping British interests well to the front at the Shereefian Court, in view, more especially, of the activity with which French interests are being pushed on the Algerian frontier of the Sultan's dominions; nor is it necessary for the Chamber to urge the importance of securing some improvement in the methods of government and the administration of justice in Morocco, and possibly even, in the event of certain contingencies, of supporting its independence and neutrality, in view of the contiguity to Gibraltar.

I am, &c.
(Signed) KENRIC B. MURRAY, Secretary.

No. 54.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery—(Received January 17.)

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 17, 1893.

MURDER of Juan Trinidad.

Gharneet's answer to the ultimatum has just arrived. It states that the Sultan has ordered that the indemnity of 5,000 dollars be paid at once, and the soldiers put in prison to please Great Britain, since we assert we are sure of the facts, although the Sultan is not. The Vizier's note is polite, but the inclosures, viz., an order to the Custom-house to pay the money, and letters to Torres and the Basha, are evidently written with the intention of being as impertinent as was dared in an indirect manner. None of these documents allow that the soldiers are really guilty, and speak of their being put in prison till the matter is cleared up. The letter to Torres says the case is not one of those important affairs which it is necessary to decide in accordance with strict justice, and that it is expedient to yield, as, although the weight of evidence is against us, there is a semblance of right on our side.

No mention is made of the reprimand to Torres, which Sir J. Drummond Hay thought particularly important. Gharneet, however, gave De Vismes a verbal promise to address a second letter to him of an admonitory character.

No. 55.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery—(Received January 17, 3.3 P.M.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Rome, January 17, 1893, 2.30 P.M.

MOROCCO. Italian Minister at Tangier telegraphs that the Sultan has agreed to punish the assassin of the native of Gibraltar, and to give his family an indemnity of 5,000 dollars.

No. 56.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery—(Received January 18.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 11, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1 of the 1st instant respecting the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad, I have the honour to transmit herewith two despatches which I have received from Mr. de Vismes on the subject.

These two despatches are subsequent to my first letter to the Vizir on the subject, which was based on your Lordship's telegram No. 72 of the 20th December, and transmitted home in my despatch No. 259 of the 28th December, but both left Fez before the receipt of the letter authorized in your Lordship's telegram No. 74 of the 31st December.

The second of these despatches from Mr. de Vismes transmits a letter from Oid
[731] I

Gharneet addressed to me. The promise it contains to punish the soldiers, if they are proved guilty by evidence admitted by Mahomedan law is almost valueless, as no doubt the evidence against them transmitted by Cid Mohammed Torres does not comply with the necessary formalities. Far more important is Mr. de Vismes' impression that the Moorish authorities, though temporizing when he wrote, were inclined to settle the matter satisfactorily.

To-day I received from Cid Mohammed Torres the note, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith, informing me that the soldiers accused of the murder are in prison. This, I believe, is the result of the events related in Mr. de Vismes' despatch No. 7, and not of the letter I dispatched on the 1st January.

I trust to have an answer to that letter before the end of the week, but the continued rain may make the rivers impassable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

Sir,

Fez, December 29, 1892.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch of the 22nd instant relating to the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad, which reached me on the afternoon of the 26th.

I availed myself of the first interview which it was in the power of Cid Emfadl Gharneet to accord me, in order to make verbal representations to his Excellency in the sense of your instructions.

Cid Gharneet requested me to furnish him with a written statement on the case which he could submit to the Sultan, and I accordingly, on the next day, handed him my translation of your letter.

In a further interview which I had with the Foreign Minister this morning, he expressed, on behalf of the Sultan, His Majesty's desire to act in a friendly and just manner towards Great Britain, but added that Hadj Mohammed Torres would be called upon for a report on the case, and for valid evidence in support of his view. I observed with some emphasis that Torres was the official whose conduct had given rise to our complaint, and that the Basha if left to himself would probably have done justice. I enlarged on the clear and conclusive nature of the evidence, and the great importance of the case from our point of view. I also drew attention to the fact that we demanded not only compensation, but a punishment of the guilty parties, and a reprimand to Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres.

Before I left, Cid Gharneet repeated that the Sultan desired to be on the best terms of friendship with Great Britain, and added that he would like to see me again on this subject to-morrow, after he had further conferred with His Shereefian Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

Sir,

Fez, January 2, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th December, I have the honour to inclose to you herewith, accompanied by a translation, an answer which has been handed to me open by Cid Emfadl Gharneet to your letter regarding the murder of Juan Trinidad.

At an interview which I had a few days ago with the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs he informed me that a communication had already been received on this subject from Hadj Mohammed Torres, who had raised the contention that the declarations of the guard (police) must be credited "as in every other country." I did my best to make clear to Cid Gharneet the utter absurdity and futility of setting up the evidence of members of the public force as irrebuttable, and to persuade him that no such principle obtains in England, nor, as far as I knew, in any European country.

In another interview which I had with him yesterday, the Vizir expressed the opinion that the first step required to be taken was to arrest the guards under accusation, in which view I heartily concurred. He, however, added that he was not yet in possession of the Sultan's commands in the matter, and appointed an hour this afternoon, when he would let me know His Majesty's decision.

In compliance herewith he exhibited to me a draft of the letter inclosed. I observed to him that I trusted that, while he might be calling on Hadj Mohammed Torres for a report on the case, orders would at the same time be sent for the arrest of the watchmen. He replied that such a serious step could not be taken on our mere accusation, and that if the Moorish Government acted in such a manner it would become the laughing-stock of all Europeans at Tangier. After referring to the opinion expressed by his Excellency to me on the previous day, I assured him most positively, not only that in all European countries persons against whom such a heavy accusation as the present one was in any degree reasonably sustained, were invariably placed under custody pending and during their trial, but that it was to my knowledge that in Morocco people were every day imprisoned on much smaller pretences. I also maintained that your communication on the subject constituted amply sufficient grounds for placing the men under arrest.

He then attempted to plead that this case was an exceptional one, as the accusation was brought against the police. I declared that this distinction was utterly inadmissible, and, further, that Her Majesty's Legation and Her Majesty's Government would never accept that these men should be exculpated on the plea that the documents which might be forwarded by Torres in their defence were good according to Shraa, for a document might very well be unexceptionable as to form, but yet the facts set forth in it might be false. Gharneet then, after alluding of his own accord to the strong proof we had in the bullet which had been extracted from Trinidad's body, and found to fit the guards' guns, objected that the Spaniard, who had been accused of perpetrating the crime, had been set free at the behest of M. Rinaldi. Of this I told him I knew nothing at all.

In short, whilst feeling that I could not properly oppose the desire evinced by the Moorish Government to thoroughly investigate this matter, I spared no effort to convince Cid Emfadl Gharneet of our determination to see justice done, and that no subterfuges would be tolerated. I spoke as strongly as it was possible to do compatibly with courtesy and amicable intercourse; and, with reference to an expression in the first part of his letter, I assured Cid Gharneet that it was not the death of Juan Trinidad, but a denial of justice on the part of the Moorish Government which was capable of disturbing the friendly relations between his Government and that of Her Majesty.

I told him that if he desired it I was quite willing to forward his proposed letter to you, but, at the same time, it was my duty to point out the features in it which appeared to me unsatisfactory, and which I felt convinced would be regarded as such by you.

He said he would again refer to the Sultan for instructions, and would send me his letter for transmission to you this evening.

This promise he kept, without making the addition suggested by me regarding the arrest of the watchmen; but it is quite possible that instructions in the desired sense may have been independently issued to the authorities at Tangier. In fact, I am under the impression that the Moorish Government, although at present temporizing, principally for the sake of their *amour-propre*, have already in their minds determined to settle this question satisfactorily.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Mr. Eliot.

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received from the Khalifa,* Mr. de Vismes, the translation of the note addressed to me by you, and have understood what you state about having perused my two letters to the Vizir, Lord Rosebery, and having taken cognizance of their purport and the expressions of friendship contained in them, but that before you

* Head Interpreter.

received them an event had taken place at Tangier that might disturb the friendly relations between the two countries, in that the guard of the Government had killed the British subject, Juan Trinidad, in the streets of Tangier by shooting him, and that an inquiry into the case had taken place before the Governor of the town and the British Consul, and the declarations of the Moors were read to the effect that the said British subject had been killed by a Christian, and that their witness was not found to be true, and the Governor of the town had admitted its falsehood, and some Christians had declared that they saw the Moors fire and kill the person in question, and that all the people of Tangier know that the evidence of these few Christians is true, besides which the bullet was extracted from the dead Christian's body and was found to fit the guns of the guards, and the Christians who were with the murdered man had no guns; and when it was proved to the Governor of the town that it was the watchmen who were guilty of the homicide, he referred the matter to the Naib Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, and he wrote to you and sent you the five declarations which the Governor had admitted to be false; then you returned to him his letter through your Consul and requested him to change it and send to you another letter founded on justice and friendship, but he would not consent to change it; then you sent a telegram to the Vizir Rosebery to that effect, and he answered you telling you to write to Torres on the matter, and you wrote to him in terms of the copy which you sent me. And you asked that steps should be taken for the settlement of this matter and its conclusion for the reasons explained by you.

I have brought all you stated to the knowledge of our Lord (whom may God render victorious) as well as the copy of your letter to Torres, and His Majesty has taken cognizance of the whole and has commanded me to answer you on the subject that he had ordered Hadj Mohammed Torres, before the receipt of your letter, to send the evidence he might have in his hand to the effect that the watchmen had not killed the British subject, and that as soon as it would be received and examined and compared with the evidence adverted to by you the right of the matter would become clear, and a settlement would be made in accordance therewith, but before it is received such settlement cannot take place, because it is necessary that the evidence of both sides should be examined together, and that His Shereefian Majesty has renewed to him his order to send them quickly, and His Majesty is ready to execute justice against the watchmen if this is proved against them by evidence admitted by Shraa, so that you should not lose any right which you may prove yourself to possess in accordance with justice.

May you remain in good health.

Finished the 12th Jumad I (? II), 1310 (1st January, 1893).

(Signed) MOHAMMED-EL-EMFADL-BEN-MOHAMMED GHARNEET.

Inclosure 4 in No. 56.

Hadj Mohammed Torres to Mr. Eliot.

(After compliments.)

WE received Shereefian orders to dispatch the documents referring to the investigation of the calamity of murdering the British subject, Juan Trinidad, to His Shereefian Majesty, that they may be examined there. So we sent them.

Also we received Shereefian orders to imprison those accused of the murder, and we have given permission to the Basha of the town to imprison those of the police who are accused. This we did according to the Shereefian order, which has been complied with.

We inform you of this that you may take notice of it, and (we end) with love, and may you continue to be in prosperity and peace.

22nd Jumada Eithania, 1310 (10th January, 1893).

(Signed) MOHAMMED TORRES.

No. 57.

The North-West African Company to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 18.)

182, Cheapside, London, January 17, 1893.

My Lord,

I AM instructed by the Directors of the North-West African Company (Limited) to call the attention of your Lordship to the fact that the next instalment of the indemnity agreed to be paid to this Company by the Sultan of Morocco becomes due on the 10th April next.

The object of this letter is simply to bring the fact before your Lordship, trusting that your Lordship will give the necessary instructions in respect of the same to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, Secretary.

No. 58.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, January 18, 1893.

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs has informed Italian Ambassadors at Paris and Madrid by telegraph that, as England is only sending one ship of war to Tangier, the Italian Government will not send any.

Signor Brin hopes that France and Spain will not send any ships, but he is not sure of France.

Deprecating any unnecessary display of force, he says that Italy will only send ships if invited to do so by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 59.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 18, 1893, 4.30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 6 of the 17th instant, you are authorized to state that Her Majesty's Government insist upon the Sultan's Agent's receiving a proper reprimand, and also upon a proper trial of the offenders. You should add that you trust these demands may be complied with before Sir West Ridgeway reaches Tangier, as he will be furnished with stringent instructions about this matter.

No. 60.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 18, 1893, 6.10 P.M.

THE Queen has selected Sir West Ridgeway to proceed to Morocco on a Special Mission with the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

Announce above to the Sultan and the Moorish Government, and say that Her Majesty's Government feel confident that a cordial reception awaits him.

No. 61.

*The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.**

(No. 4.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 18, 1893, 7.20 P.M.

AS reparation has been made for the murder of the British subject in Morocco, it is not the intention of Her Majesty's Government to dispatch any man-of-war to

* Also to Lord Dufferin (No. 2); Sir E. Malet (No. 5); and Lord Vivian (No. 2).

Tangier, with the exception of one ship which will take Sir West Ridgeway to that port and leave again immediately.

Should men-of-war, however, be sent there by any other Powers, Her Majesty's Government may consider it necessary to take similar action.

Communicate above to the Government to which you are accredited [if any inquiry is addressed to you].*

No. 62.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 10.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 18, 1893.

I APPROVE the note which you addressed to Cid Emfadl Gharneet, as well as the terms of the instruction which you gave to Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu, in regard to the murder of a British subject at Tangier, copies of which were inclosed in your despatch No. 1 of the 1st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 63.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 10.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 18, 1893.

THE Spanish Ambassador spoke to me on the 12th instant on the subject of Morocco.

With reference to the demand for reparation for the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad, I expressed my hope that the incident would pass off quietly, as I had received news of the imprisonment of the Moorish soldiers who were under suspicion in the matter.

I had instructed your Excellency to inform the Spanish Government that, in the event of reparation being refused, I should be forced to send a ship of war to Tangier, as had been done by the Spanish Government not long ago in a similar case, and with complete success.

With regard to the Special Mission, I said that Sir West Ridgeway would not go to Fez unless matters turned out very differently to my anticipations, and his main instructions would be to co-operate with the Representatives of the Great Powers principally interested in Morocco, for without such cordial co-operation I was convinced that nothing could be effected.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 64.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 18, 1893.

HER Majesty's Government having selected you to proceed to Tangier upon a temporary Special Mission as Her Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to the Sultan of Morocco, I have to furnish you with the following general instructions for your guidance.

I inclose, for your information, copies of the instructions with which your predecessor, Sir Charles Euan-Smith, was furnished upon proceeding to his post at Tangier, as well as with copies of those which were addressed to him upon the

* Passage in brackets not sent to Madrid.

occasion of his visit to Fez in the spring of last year.* The various questions which interest this country and Morocco are summarized therein.

Full particulars of Sir C. Euan-Smith's subsequent negotiations will be found in the accompanying printed correspondence, as well as in the archives of the Legation. That Sir Charles was unsuccessful in his endeavours to come to an agreement with the Moorish Government on any of the questions which he pressed upon their attention is well known, and since his return from the Sultan's Court Her Majesty's Government have been painfully impressed with the fact that it is impossible to obtain proper attention to the representations of Her Majesty's Legation, or the barest justice to British subjects.

It is with the object of ameliorating this state of affairs, and of restoring the more cordial relations which formerly existed between the two countries, that Her Majesty's Government, confiding in your tried qualities and capacities, have chosen you for your present mission.

You will have in it the advantage of being able to consult with Sir J. Drummond Hay, so long Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier. And as soon as you feel yourself to be sufficiently informed, I should be glad to have from you, after conference with him, your impressions of the general situation in Morocco, so complicated by intrigue, fanaticism, and misgovernment.

In the many difficult questions which concern the welfare of that country, such as the maintenance of its integrity and independence, its better administration, the improvement of commercial relations, and of the security for the lives and property of foreign residents, all the Powers have a common interest. Her Majesty's Government wish, therefore, that you should act in general co-operation with your foreign colleagues, because they are convinced that, in view of the delicate and critical condition of the Moorish Empire, and of the present temper of its Government, it is only by a sincere and unselfish co-operation of all the Powers that a favourable result can be obtained.

It may not improbably be pressed upon you by the Moorish Government that the Sultan would be glad to send an Embassy to England. But you are aware that, though Her Majesty's Government have no objection, in principle, to this measure, it would not be possible, in the present state of our relations and the conspicuous absence of good-will on the part of the Moorish Government, for Her Majesty's Government to entertain such a proposal.

For similar reasons, it is not proposed that you should proceed to Fez unless events should take a new and different turn.

With reference to questions more immediately affecting British interests, I have to call your attention to Sir C. Euan-Smith's despatches No. 76 of the 18th April and No. 128 of the 19th July last year upon the subject of the long outstanding claims of British subjects resident in Morocco.

It is not advisable that you should, under present circumstances, take any immediate steps in the matter, but I should wish you to bear the subject in mind, and to report to me eventually your opinion as to the best means of effecting a satisfactory settlement. It would be desirable that you should also give your attention to the history and relative validity of these claims, some of which date back between thirty and forty years.

Questions connected with the trading factory of the North-West African Company at Cape Juby have given rise to a voluminous correspondence ever since its establishment, and various proposals have been made for placing the relations of the Company with the Moorish Government upon a more satisfactory footing, but hitherto without success. Nothing unusual has happened very recently in the vicinity of this factory, and I should not wish you at present to move in the matter, beyond seeing that the instalments of the indemnity due to the Company for damage done to their trade by the interference of the Moorish authorities are regularly paid, and that there is no infringement of the private rights of the Company in the district in question. Her Majesty's Government, it must be borne in mind, have never claimed, and are not now prepared to claim, that any part of the Cape Juby district is under the Queen's sovereignty.

The murder of a British subject, Juan Trinidad, by Moorish soldiers in the streets of Tangier, has recently compelled Her Majesty's Government to demand reparation from the Moorish Government, in default of any satisfaction to the legitimate demands of Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires. Should these, however, not

* To Sir C. Euan-Smith, Separate, May 16, 1891; to ditto, No. 22, March 2; to ditto No. 35, March 24; to ditto, No. 82, August 8, 1892.

have been adequately met, it will be your duty to put further pressure on the Moorish Government.

I trust, however, that this matter will be finally settled before your arrival at Tangier, and that nothing will interfere to prevent the success of your mission, the primary object of which is to restore the ancient friendship which has so long existed between Great Britain and Morocco, to the mutual advantage of both countries.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 65.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, January 19, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 4, and despatch No. 8, I have the honour to report that the Minister of State is much pleased.

A similar representation has been made by the Italian Chargé d'Affaires here, and the French Ambassador informs me that he has been authorized by the French Government to deny the newspaper reports that French vessels would be sent to Tangier.

No. 66.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 19.)

(No. 7.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 19, 1893.

I SUPPOSE that the whole of the indemnity ought to be paid to the family of the murdered man. This appears to be the precedent.

No. 67.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 19, 1893.

IN answer to your telegram No. 7 of yesterday the indemnity should be paid to relatives of Trinidad. I should be glad to have particulars as to their number and degree of relationship.

No. 68.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 19, 1893.

HER Majesty's Government having decided to send Sir West Ridgeway on a special mission to Tangier, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to request you to move the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to cause the necessary directions to be given for one of Her Majesty's ships on the Mediterranean Station to be in readiness to take Sir West Ridgeway and party from Gibraltar to Tangier on Sunday the 29th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 69.

The Marquis of Dufferin to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 33.)

My Lord,

Paris, January 19, 1893.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 18th instant, I have the honour to state that his Excellency M. Develle informed me this morning that the report which had appeared in the French newspapers that a portion of the French Mediterranean Squadron was being held in readiness to sail for the coast of Morocco was entirely without foundation, and that any idea of such a displacement of ships had fallen to the ground on the reception of the assurances which I had, by your Lordship's direction, communicated to the French Government in relation to Sir West Ridgeway's mission.

In reply, I took the opportunity of casually mentioning to the Foreign Minister that the only British man-of-war that was likely to appear in Morocco waters was the ship which was to convey Sir West Ridgeway to his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN AND AVA.

No. 70.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, January 20, 1893.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs is of opinion that under the present circumstances neither France nor Spain will send men-of-war to Tangier, and this view is confirmed by my French and Spanish colleagues.

No. 71.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 20, 1893.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 5.

The family of Juan Trinidad consists of an invalid mother, supported by the murdered man and his youngest brother; a brother of 18, weak in intellect, and without occupation; a second brother of 16, who was cabin boy on board a British steamer, but who is said to have disappeared; and a sister, married to a Spaniard, and resident in Spain.

The money has been paid to me.

No. 72.

*The Earl of Rosebery to the Marquis of Dufferin.**

(No. 8.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 20, 1893.

MOROCCO: my telegram of yesterday.

Satisfaction afforded by Sultan is not as complete as I had expected, for I find that His Majesty has not acceded to our request that his Agent at Tangier should be reprimanded. It is, however, unlikely that any further difficulty will be experienced in settling this incident.

* Also to Lord Vivian (No. 3), Sir H. Drummond Wolff (No. 6), and Sir E. Malet (No. 7).

No. 73.

Foreign Office to London Chamber of Commerce.

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 20, 1893.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, specifying the questions which, in the opinion of the London Chamber of Commerce, should especially engage the attention of Sir West Ridgeway during his mission to Morocco.

I am to state that the matters to which you refer are receiving careful consideration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 74.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 6.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, January 21, 1893.

INDEMNITY for murder of Juan Trinidad: your telegram No. 8 of 20th instant. It is important that the money should be paid over to the family without delay. Exercise your own judgment as to its apportionment amongst the relatives.

No. 75.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 12.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 16, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu announcing the arrival at Fez of the ultimatum, which I was instructed by your Lordship to send, respecting the murder of the British subject Juan Trinidad.

It would appear that both Mr. de Vismes and the Vizir were at the time of the arrival of the missive on pleasure bent, and that thus a delay of twelve hours, additional to that already caused by the exceptional state of the weather, was occasioned.

As the first courier who brought the news of the receipt of the ultimatum arrived here yesterday morning about 9 A.M., I presume that the second, who will bring the result of the forty-eight hours' reflection, will arrive to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 75.

*Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.**Fez, January 8, 1893.*

Sir,

YOUR courier sent on the 1st January with the ultimatum on the Trinidad case arrived this evening at half-past 6, that is to say, he was above four days late.

As I was due to dinner at Captain Thomas', one of the French Military Mission, I did not open the bag till I got back a few minutes before 10. I immediately repaired to Oid Emfald Gharneet's house, which is close by here, but, in spite of all my endeavours, failed to obtain admittance. It was said to be physically impossible to awake the Fekih. I heard that there had been a wedding in his family to-day and so presume his Excellency was inebriated: in fact, I thought I heard an expression of that kind from the lips of one of his men.

I have small doubt that the answer will be satisfactory, as I already informed you in a letter which you probably only received yesterday, that I thought the Court had already made up their minds on this subject.

(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTTHIEU.

No. 76.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 13. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 17, 1893.

COUNT D'AUBIGNY, the French Minister, called upon me this morning and mentioned that he had received a telegram from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, he could not remember if it was from M. Ribot or not, saying that Lord Dufferin had given assurances respecting the mission of Sir West Ridgeway to Morocco, which were quite satisfactory. The telegram stated that Sir West Ridgeway would act in concert with his colleagues, particularly with the French, and instructed Count d'Aubigny to assist him with his co-operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 77.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, January 18, 1893.

SIGNOR BRIN expressed to me to-day his hope that our immediate difficulty with the Moorish Government was settled. He said that, on learning that the French and Spanish Governments proposed to send ships of war to Tangier, he had at once telegraphed to Count Tornielli to ascertain what naval force Her Majesty's Government were sending; and on learning that they were only sending one ship, he had decided not to send any, and had telegraphed his decision to the Italian Representatives at Paris and Madrid, with a view to its being made known at those capitals.

His Excellency said that he much deprecated an unnecessary display of naval force in the waters of Morocco, for which he did not see any justification in the present circumstances. He thought that the attitude of Spain with respect to the affairs of Morocco had been somewhat modified by the change of Ministry at Madrid, and that the new Minister for Foreign Affairs seemed more inclined to follow the lead of France. Signor Brin was aware that the French Government had proposed to send a naval squadron to Tangier, but as its departure had been postponed, he hoped that it might not be sent after all.

His Excellency expressed entire faith in your Lordship's representations of the objects of Sir West Ridgeway's mission, and said that it was the present intention of the Italian Government not to send any ships of war to Tangier, unless they were invited to do so by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VIVIAN.

No. 78.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 23.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 23, 1893.

WITH reference to my communication of the 21st instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the copy of a telegram, dated the 21st instant, from the Commander-in-chief at Malta.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 78.

Vice-Admiral Sir A. Hoskins to Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) P. Malta, January 21, 1893, 10 P.M.
 "PHAETON" sails 22nd January for Gibraltar. Will return to Malta after six days' stay, unless new conditions arise.

No. 79.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 9.) P. Tangier, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P. DESPATCH No. 144 from Sir C. Euan-Smith, of August 8th last year, no answer to which has reached this Legation.

I have received from the Sultan an order for the payment of 100 dollars to settle this case.

I did not in any way demand this indemnity, but instructed Mr. de Vismes, when speaking of the Trinidad murder, to quote this case as another example of the violence of Moorish guards.

Am I to accept this settlement of the case?

There is not the faintest probability of the culprits being arrested.

No. 80.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 10.) P. Tangier, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P.

JEWS of Morocco City.

Gharneet has forwarded to me a copy of a letter from the Sultan, censuring the Kaid of the Mellah of Morocco for his cruelty towards the Jewish inhabitants, and bidding him accord them the same treatment as that enjoyed by Mahomedans.

He has likewise sent me a copy of a letter which he has himself addressed to the Jews, informing them of the steps taken, and containing assurances of the Sultan's benevolent feelings towards them.

No. 81.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 11.) P. Tangier, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P. WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 7, I should be glad to know when Sir West Ridgeway arrives at Gibraltar. The local authorities appear to have no information.

No. 82.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 12.) P. Tangier, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P. IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 8, Mr. de Vismes arrived at Tangier yesterday.

The details required shall be sent by telegraph to-morrow morning.

No. 83.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 8.) P. Foreign Office, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P. DELIVER the following message to Sir W. Ridgeway:—

"Inform Mr. Eliot of the exact date of your expected arrival at Gibraltar. Consul White will meet you there."

"As regards your attitude towards the Sultan's Agent at Tangier, I should recommend one of frigid dignity. But you will, of course, be guided by the consideration whether the Sultan has or has not reprimanded him."

No. 84.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 7.) P. Foreign Office, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P. SIR W. RIDGEWAY is taking Captain Copley with him as Private Secretary. Mr. White should meet them at Gibraltar and return with them in Her Majesty's ship "Phaeton" to Tangier.

No. 85.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 8.) P. Foreign Office, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P. I SEE from the newspapers that Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu has returned. Is this so? I am anxious to learn substance of his Reports.

No. 86.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 9.) P. Foreign Office, January 23, 1893.
 (Telegraphic.) P. YOUR telegram No. 9 of to-day.
 The money offered in compensation for the kidnapping of British child should be accepted.

No. 87.

Foreign Office to War Office.

Sir,
 I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to state to you that Colonel the Right Honourable Sir West Ridgeway, K.C.B., has been appointed to proceed to Morocco on a temporary special mission, which is expected to extend over a period of not more than six months.

Sir West Ridgeway proposes to take with him a military officer, to be attached to the Mission, and with Lord Rosebery's sanction he has selected for this purpose Captain Bewicke-Copley, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General at Dublin, who has consented to take the duty for a period of two months, during which time he will be on leave.

This arrangement will entail no expenditure out of public funds beyond Captain Copley's travelling expenses, and I am to inquire whether it meets with the concurrence of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War.

I am to add that, at the expiration of Captain Copley's leave, it will be necessary to apply for the services of another officer in his place.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) T. V. LISTER.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the reply which I have received from the Vizier Cid Emfadl Gharneet to the demand for reparation for the murder of the British subject, Juan Trinidad, as also a letter from Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu describing the circumstances under which it was handed to him.

The reply is satisfactory in as far as it grants the satisfaction which was demanded, namely, the payment of the indemnity of 5,000 dollars and the imprisonment of the guards, but it presents some undesirable features in other points:

Firstly. There is no mention of a reprimand to Hadj Mohammed Torres in any of the documents, though Mr. de Vismes says he received a promise that an admonitory letter would be written to that functionary. It is known to be most difficult in Morocco to have any censure passed on an official for misconduct to Christians, but Sir John Hay is very strongly of opinion that in this case a reprimand should be made a *sine quâ non*.

Secondly. The language of the three Shereefian letters is most unsatisfactory. While the document addressed directly to me is couched in terms to which little exception can be taken, these letters, which, according to the customs of the country, are forwarded through the Legation, appear to me to be written in a style as insolent as the writer dared to employ. They are, of course, not addressed to the Legation, but the general tone is that since Her Majesty's Government are disposed to take strong measures it is expedient to humour their caprices and not decide an unimportant matter according to strict justice.

Thirdly. The Shereefian letters do not order the soldiers to be imprisoned but to be arrested till the "calamity is cleared up." It seems to me necessary that the guilty party should be imprisoned for a definite period. Subject to your Lordship's approval, I propose to ascertain what is the probable period for which a Moor would be imprisoned for killing a brother Moslem under similar circumstances, and to demand that the murderer be imprisoned for this period. It appears to me desirable to enforce the principle, so unpalatable to the Moorish authorities, that a Christian is as good as a Moslem, and that his life and property must be estimated by the same standard.

I am somewhat doubtful of the desirability of the imprisonment of three soldiers. What Her Majesty's Government demand is, I believe, the imprisonment of the murderer of Trinidad, and not that of "the soldiers accused of murdering the Christian." The murderer, who is in prison, is known, and the two other men who are also arrested are said to have fired on the Spaniards who were with Trinidad. Whether they are, however, the real culprits is doubtful. If they are detained in prison, it seems to me that it should be at the instance of the Spanish Minister rather than of this Legation.

Hadj Mohammed Torres sent to me this morning a message through Her Majesty's Consul saying that the Custom-house had not the money necessary to pay the indemnity at present, and begging that I would wait about ten days, when they expected to receive a consignment of cash from Fez.

I replied that the money must be paid at once; the Shereefian order was categorical, and the financial embarrassments of the Custom-house were not my affair.

Hadj Mohammed Torres answered that I should have the money to-morrow, but that he would have to borrow it.

I have little doubt that the alleged poverty of the Custom-house was a pure invention. In any case, it is highly improbable they would receive money from Fez. They send money thither, but receive none thence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 88.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Mr. Eliot.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received your letter dated the 11th Jumada II regarding the Englishman, Juan Trinidad, who was killed at Tangier, and have understood what you state, viz: that Vizir Lord Rosebery has commanded you to inform me that the English Government insists on the necessity of paying 5,000 dollars as blood-money to the family of the murdered man and imprisoning the guards accused of killing him; also that the courier who carried your letter would stop at Fez forty-eight hours. And you asked that your Khalifa,* Mr. de Vismes, should be furnished with a written document expressing the consent of the Government to the payment of the said blood-money, and to the arrest of the guards accused of the murder of the said Christian before the expiration of that number of hours, lest the matter should lead to the regrettable consequences which you stated.

Know, my friend, that I received your letter from the hand of your Khalifa on Monday the 19th of the current month, and I immediately communicated it to the Sultan, and he commanded me to answer you that he has not yet received the evidence of the guards to the effect that they did not kill the Christian, which he had ordered the authorities at Tangier to send him; but as you say that you are satisfied that they did kill him, although the Sultan is not yet satisfied of this, His Majesty has ceded to the demand of the Government for the payment of 5,000 dollars and the imprisonment of the accused guards in order to conciliate your Government and maintain its friendship. The Shereefian letters to the Naib Sid Hadj Mohammed Torres, and the Governor and Oomana, to carry this into execution, will reach you inclosed. I have handed this answer to your Khalifa, on the said date (Monday) on which I received from him your said letter, and I have received from him an acknowledgment of its receipt.

Finished the 19th Jumada II, 1310.

Inclosure 2 in No. 88.

Shereefian Letters inclosed in the Reply of Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Mr. Eliot.

(Translation.)

1.—To the Oomana of Tangier.

19 Jumada II, 1310

(After compliments.)

I COMMAND you to pay to the English Chargé d'Affaires, through our officer Torres, 5,000 dollars as blood-money for the Englishman Juan whom the three guards are accused of having murdered.

Peace.

2.—To the Governor of Tangier.

19 Jumada II, 1310.

(After compliments.)

I command you to arrest the guards in your town accused of having murdered the Englishman Juan, as it is expedient that they should be arrested until the case be cleared up.

Peace.

3.—To Hadj Mohammed Torres.

19 Jumada II, 1310.

(After compliments.)

It is expedient to regard as most probable the contention of the English that it was the guards who killed Juan the Englishman, without the weight of evidence on their side, and to concede their demand for the payment of 5,000 dollars as an indemnity to the family of the said Christian, and the arrest of the guards accused of killing him, because in this affair they have a semblance (of right),† and it is not one of those important matters in which satisfaction can only be given in accordance with justice.

* Head Interpreter.

† Probably a word here is omitted, but the style seems purposely vague.

I have therefore issued my Shereefian order to the Governor to arrest the guards who are accused until the case be cleared up, and to the Oomana of Tangier to pay you 5,000 dollars. And I command you to obtain it from them and pay it to the British Chargé d'Affaires on account of the blood-money of the said Christian, and to obtain his receipt for the same, and to see that the accused persons in question are arrested. The Shereefian letters to that effect will reach you inclosed.

Peace.

Inclosure 3 in No. 88.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

Fez, January 9, 1892.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state, for your information, that I received at a late hour last night your despatch of the 31st ultimo, inclosing a letter to Cid Emfadi Gharneet, presenting the demands of Her Majesty's Government in the matter of the murder of Juan Trinidad.

I was unable to obtain an interview with the Moorish Minister that same night, owing to the lateness of the hour, though I urged the great importance of the business on which I had come.

I however succeeded in handing him your communication before sunrise this morning.

The Vizir seemed at first deeply impressed with its tenour, and with the language with which I accompanied the delivery of it, but rallying himself, he suggested that it would be very easy to consult the Ministers at Tangier, naming especially those of Germany and Italy, as to whether the Moorish Government were in the wrong in this matter. I strongly advised him not to attempt to pursue such a course, as there could be no doubt that the opinions which would thus be elicited would be adverse to the Moorish Government, and this conduct could scarcely fail to be viewed in a most unfavourable light by Her Majesty's Government. I explained to the Vizir the great urgency of taking immediate action, as the courier had been delayed four days on the road, and you expected to receive an answer as early as to-morrow. Cid Gharneet then remarked that visits of men-of-war to Tangier were most usual occurrences, and desired to know how he should interpret the intimation of the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send vessels there; and whether he should understand that, in the event of no satisfaction being accorded, Tangier would be bombarded. I said I had no authority to make any statement as to the further plans of Her Majesty's Government.

Gharneet then said he must immediately lay this matter before the Sultan, and asked me to visit him at the Court this afternoon.

He received me with assurances that the necessary Shereefian letters for the payment of the indemnity and for the imprisonment of the guilty guards would be in my possession this evening. At the same time he inquired whether it was intended that the latter should suffer capital punishment. I pointed out that no mention of this was made in your letter to him, and stated that I was not instructed to demand their execution. I added emphatically that a mark of the Sultan's displeasure with Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres could not be dispensed with.

In this matter I found the Vizir very tenacious. He urged that no proofs were yet before the Moorish Government against the Sultan's Naib at Tangier, and the latter appeared to have only been deceived by false statements made to him. I referred him to your former letter on the subject as showing unmistakably that Torres had behaved in a most unsatisfactory and blamable manner in this affair; and also endeavoured to impress on him the fact, that this official's conduct was the principal cause of the action now taken by Her Majesty's Government. After much resistance, he agreed to provide me also with a Shereefian letter to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

When I saw him again this evening, he handed to me the inclosed reply to your letter, containing a communication to Hadj Mohammed Torres, with inclosures to the Basha and the Oomana of Tangier, of all of which I append translations (as well as copies of the inclosures).

I objected very strongly to the tenour of the letter addressed by the Sultan to Hadj Mohammed Torres, as it appeared to me to convey approval of his conduct rather than blame, and to imply that the demands presented by Her Majesty's Government in the matter of the murder of Juan Trinidad are unjust. Gharneet protested warmly that no such construction could be placed on any portion of the said letter; that disapproval was expressed to Torres by the very fact of his being compelled to abandon his hitherto attitude, and to be the medium of paying compen-

sation to Trinidad's family, and enforce the imprisonment of the guards; "besides which," said he, "it would be highly undesirable that any ill-feeling should be produced in the mind of Torres against you." I assured the Vizir that we were in no degree concerned with the offence which Torres might take at our action, the fact being that offence had been caused to the British Government by the manner in which he had behaved.

In consequence of my insistence in this matter, Gharneet promised later to furnish me with a further letter to Torres couched in an admonitory tone, urging me at the same time to forward the letters which were ready without any delay; and stating that any further objection on my part would have the effect of "spoiling the whole thing." I remarked that this result might possibly be brought about by the letter adverted to above, as you might refuse to be satisfied with it, thinking, as I did, that it could not fail to be understood in the sense I had indicated; but that, as his Excellency so much desired it, I would forward it, leaving the responsibility with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

No. 89.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord,

Vienna, January 20, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 16th instant, inclosing copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 13th instant to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, informing him of the circumstances under which Her Majesty's Government have decided to dispatch Sir J. West Ridgeway on a temporary mission to Morocco.

Count Kálnoky having on a previous occasion made some allusion to this mission, I have thought I should be acting in accordance with your Lordship's wishes and with the last paragraph of your Lordship's despatch to Mr. Eliot by acquainting his Excellency in general terms, at an interview I had with him this afternoon, with the circumstances under which Sir J. West Ridgeway had been appointed, and with the instructions which would be given him to act in co-operation with the Representatives of other Powers, as the only means, in the present delicate and critical condition of the Moorish Empire, of securing a favourable result.

Count Kálnoky, in recognizing the expediency of this course, referred to the instructions which he had sent to the Austro-Hungarian Representative at Tangier at the time of Sir C. Euan-Smith's visit to Fez, to give every support to his English colleague, instructions which, he said, he was quite ready to repeat on the present occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 90.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received January 24.)

Sir,

Admiralty, January 24, 1893.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that Vice-Admiral Fairfax has telegraphed from Vigo that he proposes to leave for Gibraltar, with the ships named in the margin,* on the 1st February, and I am to request that you will move the Earl of Rosebery to cause my Lords to be informed whether he sees any objection to the Vice-Admiral's proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

* "Royal Sovereign" (Flag), "Rodney," "Immortalité," "Bellona," and "Speedwell."

No. 91.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 11. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, January 24, 1893.

AT the reception in the Palace yesterday afternoon in honour of the King's fête-day, and at the banquet in the evening, I had the honour of two conversations with the Queen-Regent on the subject of Morocco.

Her Majesty expressed her satisfaction in reference to the termination of the recent excitement in respect of Morocco, especially as the French Government had been endeavouring to bring about dissensions. She thought that Her Majesty's Government would get full satisfaction for their claims against the Moorish Government, and she trusted that everything would be done to maintain good relations between Spain and England in Moorish affairs.

I replied that such were the views of your Lordship and Her Majesty's Government.

Her Majesty having mentioned to me in the morning how pleased she would be to receive Sir West Ridgeway on his passage through Madrid, she desired me in the evening, after consulting with the Minister of State, to ask for an audience for him. This I think may have a good effect upon public opinion.

At present the press is occupied with Egyptian affairs, and articles have appeared advocating the neutralization of the Straits of Gibraltar.

No. 92.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 24.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, January 24, 1893.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 8, I have the honour to telegraph the following report from Mr. de Vismes:—

"No doubt Count d'Aubigny's Mission had political objects in view, but they were not realized. He pressed on the Sultan some understanding of the nature of an alliance in which France and Turkey played prominent parts. The Moors, however, would not accept the proposal, as they regarded it as a Protectorate under another designation.

"As far as can be ascertained, little mention was made of the Oases of Tuat and Figuig, but it is hard to be certain on this point, as the Minister had few personal interviews and allowed great discretion to his Dragoman.

"The Sultan's relations with Great Britain do not, as is supposed, inspire him with alarm, and he is content with the present situation. It is hardly probable that he will make spontaneous overtures to Ridgeway respecting a Treaty of Commerce. He is more likely to keep quiet and await events. He is, however, most anxious to send a Moorish Mission to London. A prospect of the reception of this Mission, combined with some pressure, would probably induce him to accord the Treaty drawn up by Sir C. Euan-Smith on the 13th July, 1892."

No. 93.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 12.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 24, 1893.

WITH reference to Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 7 of the 15th January of last year, I transmit to you herewith copy of a letter from the North-West African Company,* calling attention to the fact that the next instalment of the Cape Juby indemnity will fall due on the 10th April next.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

* No. 57.

No. 94.

Foreign Office to Sir West Ridgeway.

SIR VILLIERS LISTER presents his compliments to Sir West Ridgeway, and is directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to him herewith, for his consideration, copy of a letter from the London Chamber of Commerce,* specifying the questions which they particularly desire to bring under his notice in view of possible negotiations with the Moorish Government.

Foreign Office, January 24, 1893.

No. 95.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Foreign Office, January 24, 1893.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, calling attention to the fact that the next instalment of the Cape Juby indemnity will fall due on the 10th April next.

A copy of your letter will be forwarded to Her Majesty's Legation at Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 96.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 9, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 221, Secret, of the 21st November, 1892, and previous correspondence, respecting the sanitary Concessions for the improvement of Tangier, granted by the Sultan to the Sanitary Commission through Count d'Aubigny, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Corps Diplomatique were requested to meet to-day at the office of Cid Mohammed Torres to receive a communication respecting these Concessions, and to discuss them. A similar meeting had been summoned more than a week ago, but was postponed at the request of the German Minister, who said he was unwell. Count Tattenbach sent the same excuse to-day, but proceedings were commenced in spite of his absence.

Cid Mohammed Torres simply said that he had to inform the Corps Diplomatique that certain powers, of whose character the foreign Representatives were aware, had been granted by the Sultan to the Sanitary Council.

On this Count d'Aubigny, who was aware that objections were likely to be raised to this method of procedure, took the initiative by proposing that Cid Mohammed Torres should communicate to each foreign Representative a copy of the Concessions in the Sultan's name.

This was agreed to, and the proceedings terminated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 97.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 25.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 9, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 1, Secret, of the 3rd instant, transmitting one in cypher, Sir H. Drummond Wolff's despatch No. 210 of the 28th ultimo, with a request for my observations.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff says the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs apprehends that attempts may be made to evade the most-favoured-nation clause in the matter of the concessions recently granted to Count d'Aubigny.

* No. 53.

I venture to submit that there are two questions involved:

Firstly, can any peculiarity in the manner of granting an advantage to a particular country release the Moorish Government from the obligations of the most-favoured-nation clause? The concessions given to Count d'Aubigny were embodied not in a Treaty, but in Imperial letters. Can it be maintained that the Sultan has the power to grant privileges to one country exclusively by such a letter, which he could not grant by Treaty?

Secondly, what are the exact provisions of the Imperial letters themselves? The Arabic text of one of these was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 253 of the 19th ultimo, or at least Gharneet led me to understand that his sealed letter to your Lordship contained the document in question.

I regret that I did not send a translation of the copy forwarded for my own use. In the absence of Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu there is no interpreter at Her Majesty's Legation who can read Arabic; but I thought that, by asking one who speaks the language fluently, to read the document in question with the native scribe, and compare it with the communication made to me by M. Souhart, all that was necessary would be obtained. I was told that the Arabic and French texts were identical. I now perceive they are nothing of the kind in form, though they be in substance. The document sent by Cid Emfadh Gharneet is the letter to the Custom-house authorities at the ports. It informs them that certain modifications have been granted to the French Minister in his "Commercial Stipulations," the usual phrase for a Commercial Treaty of 1260 (that is, 1845). In speaking of exports, no limitation is made; it is simply stated that the duties are reduced. In speaking of imports, the letter says: "But as for the produce which enters Morocco from the lands of France, it will remain as it is now; but silk articles, &c. . . ."

It may therefore be fairly argued that the Moorish Customs officers have received orders to only admit French goods at the reduced rates. But such an order appears to be inconsistent with Treaty stipulations, inasmuch as the letter itself says that changes have been introduced in the Commercial Treaty to which the most-favoured-nation clause must be applicable.

I believe that none of the foreign Representatives here doubt that Count d'Aubigny's concessions apply to all Powers. I shall, however, endeavour to obtain further information on the subject, and, in particular, to ascertain what is the practice of this port since the concessions are already in operation.

I do not perfectly apprehend what is "the railway proposed to be constructed by the French, which would place Morocco in their grip." If Sir H. Drummond Wolff alludes to the railway to Djenan-bou-Rezq, that line undoubtedly menaces Figuig, but I have not gathered that it is generally considered to be of such importance as this expression would seem to imply. If any other railway in Morocco is meant, I can only say that as yet there is no evidence that the French asked for any such line, and they distinctly deny the imputation. However, it would be better to await Mr. de Vismes' Report on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 98.

Foreign Office to Lord Rothschild.

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 25, 1893.

WITH reference to my letter of the 16th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to inform you that a telegram was received on the 23rd instant from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Tangier, stating that the Sultan has reprimanded the Moorish Kaid accused of ill-treating the Jews of Morocco city, and ordered him to treat them as favourably as the Mahomedans.

The Vizir has also informed the Jewish community there of the steps which have been taken, and conveyed to them an expression of the Sultan's goodwill.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 99.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Foreign Office, January 25, 1893.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 24th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to request that you will state to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that he is not aware of any objection to Vice-Admiral Fairfax's proposal to visit Gibraltar early in February with the ships under his command, provided that he abstains from approaching the coast of Morocco.

It is possible, however, that under existing circumstances the movements of the squadron may give rise to comments in the French and Spanish press, and his Lordship therefore would be glad to learn how long Vice-Admiral Fairfax will remain at Gibraltar, and what his subsequent movements will be.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 100.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 13.)

Madrid, January 26, 1893.

(Telegraphic.) P.

THE Spanish Ambassador in London has telegraphed to the Minister of State that the Channel fleet is to leave for Madeira, and will touch at Gibraltar.

His Excellency has informed me of this, and has expressed a fear that the announcement may cause comment in the press here from its coincidence with the arrival of Sir West Ridgeway.

He would be much obliged if your Lordship would get paragraphs inserted in the English papers stating that the movements of the squadron have no connection with Sir West Ridgeway's Mission, and that its touching at Gibraltar is a matter of usual occurrence.

No. 101.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 9.)

Foreign Office, January 27, 1893.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 13 of yesterday.

As the Channel Squadron is proceeding to Madeira, it would have touched at Gibraltar in the usual course; but Her Majesty's Government are desirous of averting the possibility of any misunderstanding consequent on the groundless rumours lately current, and they have therefore ordered the fleet to sail to Madeira direct.

They trust that this will be accepted as a proof of their anxious desire to treat the susceptibilities of the Spanish Government with all possible deference.

No. 102.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 14.)

Foreign Office, January 27, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE received and considered your despatch No. 14 of the 18th instant, forwarding and commenting on the reply returned by the Moorish Government to the demand made by Her Majesty's Government for reparation for the murder of the British subject Juan Trinidad.

I am of opinion that the terms of the Shereefian letters to the Moorish authorities are not wholly satisfactory, but as Her Majesty's Government have obtained the substance of their demands, and as they have insisted on a real reprimand to Cid Torres, the matter does not appear to call for any further action at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 103.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Eliot.

(No. 15.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, January 27, 1893.

AS Colonel the Right Honourable Sir W. Ridgeway is about to relieve you of the charge of Her Majesty's Legation at Tangier, I have much pleasure in conveying to you my entire approval of your proceedings under the somewhat difficult circumstances in which you have been acting as Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 104.

The Earl of Rosebery to Lord Vivian.

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, January 27, 1893.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 12 of the 12th instant, recording the language held to you by Signor Brin on the subject of British policy in Morocco, and I have to request that you will take an early opportunity of expressing to his Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received his friendly assurances on this head.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 105.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 12.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, January 29, 1893.

I WAS asked to-day by Minister for Foreign Affairs whether any news had reached me of the reported dispatch of a British squadron to Gibraltar and Malaga which he heard had caused alarm to the Spanish Government, and if it was, in my opinion, possible that some *coup* was being meditated by the French at Tangier.

I informed Signor Brin that I had not received any such information, and that it appeared to me very improbable.

No. 106.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, January 30, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 12, Sir H. D. Wolff's telegram No. 13, copy of which I received to-day, explains the question which the Minister for Foreign Affairs asked me yesterday, and enables me to reply to it.

No. 107.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 31.)

(No. 30. Very Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, January 27, 1893.

IN speaking to me to-day about the question of Morocco, Signor Brin told me that M. Gentile, Interpreter of the Italian Legation at Tangier, who is now here on leave of absence, and who is well acquainted with the country, assured him that the Sultan is firmly persuaded that Her Majesty's Government nourish hostile designs against the independence and integrity of his Empire, and that, while acknowledging the disinterested friendship of Italy, His Highness bitterly reproaches her with taking part with his enemies.

Signor Brin attributes this impression, as well as the change of feeling which had evidently taken place at Madrid since the change of Government, to French intrigues, and he complained that the present Foreign Minister seemed to ignore the existence of any agreement between Great Britain, Italy, and Spain to support, in concert, the *status quo* in Morocco; he was glad, however, to see that the visit of Sir West Ridgeway to Madrid had produced a good effect in reassuring the Spanish Government as to the real objects of his Mission.

Signor Brin assured me that Sir West Ridgeway would receive the full support of the Italian Minister at Tangier, who had been told, in reply to his request for permission to proceed to Fez, that the Italian Government did not wish him to do so for the present, or until the British Envoy had had time to carry out his Mission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VIVIAN.

No. 108.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received January 31, 6.32 P.M.)

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, January 31, 1893, 5.35 P.M.

HAVE arrived and taken charge.

No. 109.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 23, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 3 of the 6th January, transmitting me two despatches from M. Cantagalli to M. Brin.

It was with the greatest astonishment that I read the first of these despatches, and I must emphatically deny having made any statement whatever respecting the language used by Sir C. Euan-Smith on the subject of Tuat. Further, the statement in itself is altogether new to me, though I now hear from officials connected with this Legation that it is considered true.

I remember the conversation in question, which was practically a monologue by M. Cantagalli, and can only suppose that I let pass unchallenged some statement which he has transferred to my mouth. I feel bound, however, to add that this is merely an assumption on my part, and that I have no recollection of Sir C. Euan-Smith's language having been mentioned. On the other hand, I do remember that M. Cantagalli discussed why the Sultan never communicated M. Souhart's answer, and I was so ignorant of the subject that I asked what that answer was, and to what it replied. I would venture to point out to your Lordship that I have already alluded to the inaccuracy of M. Cantagalli in my despatch No. 3, Very Confidential, of the 2nd January.

With regard to the second despatch, M. Cantagalli told me that he had heard I had received letters from the Vizir and hoped they were satisfactory. The reception of such letters is always a matter of public notoriety in Tangier, and the Italian Minister simply stated that he knew from Colonel Bregoli that I had sent letters to Fez, the answer to which had been long expected. I replied that it was true that I had received the answer in question, that it was couched in friendly language, that it reviewed historically our relations with Morocco, and that it gave information respecting the commercial concessions granted to Count d'Aubigny identical with that which we had all received from the French Legation. M. Cantagalli asked if it was a formal communication of the French concessions. I replied that one could not apply these technical diplomatic terms to Moorish documents, and that the Vizir had not sent the concessions with a special coverer, but alluded to them incidentally in his letter.

I do not recollect saying more than this.

I would venture to point out that M. Cantagalli says the letter alluded to

Sir John Hay's negotiations in 1856, and "the important questions decided amicably with the late Sir W. Kirby Green." Apart from my recollection, it seems to me improbable that any one who had just read the letter would say this without any obvious motive, as that document referred to a different period of Sir J. Hay's activity, and made no allusion whatever to Sir W. Kirby Green.

On the other hand, any one wishing to develop the statement that it referred to the history of our relations with Morocco might rashly insert these details.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 110.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a private letter from Mr. Macleod, British Vice-Consul at Fez, reporting the language and action of Colonel Bregoli respecting the murder of the British subject Juan Trinidad.

A day before my courier returned from Fez M. Cantagalli informed me that he had received news that the Sultan would assent to your Lordship's demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 110.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Mr. Eliot.

(Private.)

(Extract.)

Fez, January 19, 1893.

I SAW Colonel Bregoli last night, and he informed me that on the day that Mr. de Vismes received the Sultan's answer to your ultimatum on the Juan Trinidad affair the Sultan visited the arsenal, and, taking Colonel Bregoli aside, questioned him closely on the matter, and, on his assuring His Shereefian Majesty of M. Cantagalli's earnest desire that the English demands should be complied with, His Shereefian Majesty told him to send a special courier at once to the Italian Minister and advise him that His Shereefian Majesty had accepted his advice on the subject.

Of course I did not enlighten the Colonel as to the real reason of His Majesty's acquiescence. Evidently the Sultan thought it a good chance to pay M. Cantagalli a cheap and flattering compliment. Colonel Bregoli seemed anxious to show their friendliness, and also to impress me with how much the Italians had their fingers in the pie.

No. 111.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 26, 1893.

YESTERDAY I called by appointment on the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo to introduce Sir West Ridgeway to his Excellency.

We were unable to see his Excellency for a long time, as he had just returned from the funeral of the poet Zorilla, and was summoned to a Council of Ministers.

Sir West Ridgeway explained to the Minister that he was about to proceed to Tangier without any fixed plan, his instructions being generally to place the relations of Great Britain and Morocco on a satisfactory footing, to settle some outstanding claims, and to cultivate the best understanding with the Representatives of other foreign Powers.

The Marquis de la Vega de Armijo answered at some length, pointing out that the one object of Spain was to maintain the *status quo*. France had, he understood from the newspapers, lately extended her frontier into the territory of Morocco,

but the policy of Spain was to refrain from the acquisition of territory herself, and to promote such a friendly understanding with the other Powers interested as to maintain intact the present confines of the Empire. His Excellency, though M. Figuera was shortly to proceed to Constantinople, would instruct him to remain some time longer at Tangier so as to give to Sir West Ridgeway all the assistance at his command, which would be valuable from his long experience of the country.

As it is the habit of the Ministers here to supply the press with very ample accounts of the business they transact, I have the honour to inclose copy and translation of an article from the "Imparcial," the Government organ, containing a long account of this interview, which may be considered as the version which the Spanish Government wish to make public.

The Minister was unable to dine with me, being still in deep mourning, but General Lopez Dominguez, the Minister of War, and Don Venancio Gonzales, Minister of the Interior, were good enough to be present at the dinner, as were the Ambassadors of Austria, Germany, and France. The Ambassador of Italy will dine here to-night, and I trust by this means to carry out the wishes of Her Majesty's Government in showing their desire to deal with the other nations interested in Morocco in a perfectly open spirit and without concealment or reserve.

I also inclose extracts and translations of the above-named newspaper and from other journals reporting what took place on the subject of Morocco at the meeting of the Council subsequent to our interview.

I have read this despatch to Sir West Ridgeway.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 111.

Extract from the "Imparcial" of January 26, 1893.

(Translation.)

THE British Ambassador yesterday asked the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo to fix an hour for visiting him in company with Sir West Ridgeway, and at 5 o'clock, the hour agreed on, the two foreign Representatives arrived at the Ministry of State.

As soon as the official presentation was made, the conversation on the subject was at once opened; the conversation was carried on in French, as Colonel Ridgeway does not speak Spanish.

Instructions of the British Envoy.

There has been no small expectation to know the views of England with regard to her relations with Spain in Morocco.

The British Envoy proceeded to satisfy to a certain degree this expectation, declaring in the very first phrases that he had been charged to come to Madrid by Lord Rosebery with the express mission of putting himself in absolute accord with the Spanish Government and arriving at a complete intelligence with them on the question of Morocco. The Envoy added that, having made this frank and spontaneous declaration, he desired to know the opinion of our Government in the matter, all the more so as the attitude of Spain at the time of the recent alarm indicated the ideas with which the Spanish nation was inspired.

The Minister was favourably impressed by Sir West Ridgeway's statements, but understood, nevertheless, that they were not sufficiently concrete to furnish a basis for discussion, inasmuch as they did not explain what was the plan of the British Government in Morocco. We hear that he allowed this to be understood in a more or less direct way, and that, according to our information, the British Envoy always replied in the same form, that "he had no further instructions than to be careful to proceed in accord with Spain."

Attitude of the Spanish Government.

In the course of the conversation the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo took occasion to express what were the political views of the Spanish Government with regard to Morocco.

Our information on this point is not, and cannot be, complete. Knowing, however, as we do, the views of the Minister of State from the frequent conversations

which we have recently had with him, it is not difficult to guess what he said, and to complete the deficiency of our information as to what passed yesterday from declarations made a few days ago.

We think that the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo would say, more or less, as follows:—

Spain has shown by her policy for many years and by her recent acts that her attitude is to maintain the *status quo*, and the neutrality and free navigation of the Mediterranean, two things closely connected. Since the Conference of Madrid all nations have intervened in Morocco, but of all of them the most directly interested in that Empire are, for geographical, political, strategic, colonial, and commercial reasons, Spain, England, and France. And of these it cannot be denied that Spain has special points of view, foreign to the policy which inspires the other two countries.

The Minister of State would remember that tradition imposes on Spain the will of Isabel the Catholic—a legacy of sentiment if you wish, but a legacy for all that—the equivalent for us of the will of Peter the Great for the Russians.

He would add that before and above all the rulers of our country consider that the primary and most indispensable of our national interests is the neutrality of the Mediterranean, and that our country is resolved to resolutely maintain it, since, if it were menaced, the gravest complications would be produced.

Gibraltar.

We have heard that the declaration as to the attitude of Spain made by the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo in the patriotic and skilful terms of which we have given a sketch contained a discreet allusion to Gibraltar.

Speaking of the satisfaction with which Spain had received the cordial disposition of England to arrive at a loyal and complete accord with Spain, the Minister of State could not do less than allude to the sorrow with which our people sees waving over this spot the same British flag which it contemplates with so much pleasure when it floats over the rich and varied possessions of England.

In view of the explicit declarations with respect to Gibraltar made by the English press, and particularly of an article published a few days ago by the "Daily Chronicle," the mention of the subject by the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo does not seem to us so inopportune as might be supposed, if, as we believe, our information is correct.

We are not dreaming that Gibraltar will be given up to us just at present. Only that opinion in England is less irreconcilable every day to the idea of restitution.

For to-day.

To-day the Minister of State will return the visit to Sir West Ridgeway, who is not staying in the British Embassy, but in the Hôtel de la Paix.

The conference, which was interrupted yesterday, will be continued to-day, and it is probable that the discussion will be carried on to the practical ground of facts.

Without prejudging this, the Minister of State told Sir West Ridgeway that he would write to Señor Figuera to come to an understanding with him, adding that Señor Figuera was well acquainted with the affairs of Morocco, and was not being moved for want of confidence in him, but at his own request.

Inclosure 2 in No. 111.

Extract from "El Pais" of January 26, 1893.

(Translation.)

THE Minister of State announced to the Council that he had had an interesting conversation with Sir West Ridgeway, Special Envoy of Great Britain to Morocco, in which Sir West had given him every assurance that his mission in the Empire of Morocco would in no way be prejudicial to the interests of Spain, with which country his Government is anxious to proceed in complete accord.

The Minister of State expressed his satisfaction at the assurances of the Envoy, declaring that the Spanish Government was greatly pleased at the attitude of England, but that it was disposed to maintain the *status quo* with the greatest energy.

Inclosure 3 in No. 111.

Extract from the "Liberal" of January 26, 1893.

(Translation.)

AT the Council of Ministers the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo gave an account of the visit which Sir W. Ridgeway had paid him, and he expressed himself as highly satisfied with the result of the visit.

It appears that the above-mentioned diplomatist has come to Spain with the intention of ascertaining the exact views of the Spanish Government with respect to African questions, as he is desirous of acting in accord with them, and to obtain, in anticipation, their acquiescence to the steps which he may have to take in Morocco whilst representing Her Majesty's Government.

The Marquis de la Vega de Armijo repeated, it is said, the assurances made to the British Ambassador accredited in Madrid, that Spain is a declared partizan of the maintenance of the *status quo* in African questions.

The Minister of State will return to-day the visit of the Envoy Extraordinary to reciprocate, with the consent of the Council, the sentiments which were expressed yesterday.

No. 112.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 28. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 27, 1893.

IN the course of the conversation with the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo, as reported in my despatch No. 27, Confidential, of yesterday, his Excellency, in recapitulating the proposed joint action of Great Britain and Spain in maintaining the *status quo*, alluded incidentally to Gibraltar. In the heart of Spain he said there was one thorn which he could not entirely overlook. I see an allusion to this point in the article of which a translation is inclosed in my despatch No. 27.

In to-day's "Liberal" there appears an article, of which I inclose some extracts,* alluding to a rumour that England is willing to surrender Gibraltar provided Spain leaves her with a free hand in Morocco. The writer objects to such a combination, and while claiming Gibraltar for Spain he calls on the Government to repudiate the intention, under any circumstances, of relinquishing her right to interest herself in Moorish affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 113.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 30. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 27, 1893.

YESTERDAY the Queen Regent was pleased to give an audience to Sir West Ridgeway and myself. It lasted an hour, and Her Majesty very frankly discussed with us the question of Morocco.

Her Majesty strongly advocated the *status quo* as the only possible policy for the immediate future.

It was absolutely impossible for either Great Britain or Spain to admit the pretensions of France in Morocco. Already had that country advanced her railway supported by block-houses as far as Tlemsen. She was gradually pushing on towards Figuig, and had already crossed the boundaries of Morocco.

The railway as projected and the pretensions of France on Tuat, if admitted and her enterprise carried out, would give to her a complete grasp of Morocco.

In 1885 and 1887 France had made pretensions on that country incompatible with the interests of other States, and Her Majesty intimated that, in order to resist the advance of that Power in Morocco, a firm Agreement was essential between the United Kingdom and Spain.

* Not printed.

At the same time, Her Majesty added there were other countries that also had designs upon Morocco; Germany, which was now almost monopolizing the trade, and Italy, which had some grounds for her pretensions as being a Mediterranean Power.

I had been prepared by the Austrian Ambassador for the expression of these views by Her Majesty regarding France, but both Sir West Ridgeway and myself limited our answers to the desire of Her Majesty's Government to maintain the best relations with Spain, and to enlist the sympathy of all countries in the maintenance of the *status quo*.

Her Majesty made to Sir West Ridgeway many suggestions on the subject of Morocco, mentioning one gentleman especially, the Spanish Military Attaché at Tangier, as able to furnish valuable information, and Her Majesty displayed her complete command, both in policy and detail, of the very complicated question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 114.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 27, 1893.

YESTERDAY I called with Sir West Ridgeway on the Austrian, German, and French Ambassadors, whose acquaintance Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier had made the day before at the Embassy.

Sir West Ridgeway was perfectly open with these gentlemen as to the objects of his mission.

These were to place the relations of Her Majesty's Government with Morocco on a peaceful and friendly footing, and to act in accord with his colleagues the Representatives of other friendly Powers on all questions affecting their common interests.

Sir West Ridgeway added that he had no particular instructions as to the negotiation of a Treaty with the Emperor; but naturally, if he found any disposition on the part of His Majesty to conclude such an instrument, he would be ready to discuss it, and the provisions would, as a matter of course, be applicable to the interests of all other Powers. He did not as yet know whether or not he should proceed to Fez.

Since writing the above, Sir West Ridgeway and myself have communicated its purport to the Italian Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 115.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 33. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 28, 1893.

YESTERDAY I called with Sir West Ridgeway on Señor Moret, who had left his house for the first time after a severe cold.

His Excellency spoke to us very freely as to his views, and in a tone showing his belief that he would soon become Minister for Foreign Affairs. This prospect is believed to be assured, and the Queen-Regent had cursorily alluded to it in her conversation as a desirable possibility.

The Minister expressed his regret at the non-acceptance of the proposal he had made in 1888, when Foreign Minister, for a Congress on Morocco. He thought the intended guarantee of the integrity of that country would have satisfied the Sultan, who would then have looked with less suspicion on proposals made to promote the trade and civilization of his dominions. His Excellency considered that any movement made by England in connection with Morocco would always agitate the public mind in Spain. For some unaccountable reason Spain always looked with jealousy on the policy of England, and with favour on that of France, although the former had invariably proved the better friend. The cause of this disposition might be the idea that England promoted Constitutional methods in preference to Absolutist or Republican principles of government favoured respectively by extreme politicians. At the present

moment it would be found that the same distribution of opinion exists, and that while the Constitutional party are in favour of strict friendship with England, both the retrogressive and the Republican sections have a decided tendency towards France. Although Señor Castelar was for the moment disgusted with France, that statesman is undoubtedly at heart a French partizan. For his own part the association of England and Spain in the affairs of Morocco was an absolute necessity, and he would always do his best to promote this combination.

Sir West Ridgeway repeated to Señor Moret the same assurances as to others, and we left satisfied of the good feeling of Señor Moret. If, however, his Excellency should become Minister for Foreign Affairs before any settlement has been effected with Morocco, I feel pretty certain that he will repeat his former proposal for a Conference.

In regard to Señor Moret's allegations respecting Señor Castelar, it may be as well to extract a passage from the "Globo" said to be a Castelar organ. It runs: "Audacity made Russia mistress of Batoum, audacity has opened the Dardanelles for Russian military ships, audacity prompted England to bombard Alexandria, audacity moved the French squadron to bombard Sfax, audacity may well become that which absolves the ambitious from their engagements so as to fall on territories which have no defence but the easily forgotten signatures of diplomatic instruments."

The article goes on to say that while no objection can be raised to the present proposals, it is more interesting to ascertain what would be the attitude of England in case of a European war, in which one half of the Continent would be engaged against the other half.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 116.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 28, 1893.

THE evening before last the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo called on me about half-past 7 to show me a telegram he had just received from the Marquis de Casa Laiglesia which led to my dispatching, at his Excellency's request, my telegram No. 13.

On receiving your Lordship's telegram No. 9 I at once forwarded a summary of its contents to his Excellency, the result which may be seen in a short article in the "Imparcial," of which I have the honour to inclose a translation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 116.

Extract from the "Imparcial" of January 28, 1893.

Departure of Sir West Ridgeway.

(Translation.)

THE British Envoy left last night in the express for Andalusia. He proceeds to Gibraltar, whence he will embark for Tangier. He had no further interview with the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo before leaving. The Spanish Minister at Tangier must have already received the necessary instructions to continue with Sir West Ridgeway the negotiations for the purpose of bringing about the desired understanding between England and France, an understanding which, apart from general lines of a vague character already laid down, is to relate to matters which can only be dealt with on the spot.

The Austrian Ambassador had an interview with the Minister of State on the affairs of Morocco.

The English Squadron.

At the present moment the only ships at Gibraltar are a troop-ship which has gone there with troops for the garrison, and one "aviso," which belongs to the Channel Squadron now at Vigo.

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This squadron had orders to sail for the Island of Madeira, touching at Gibraltar on the way as is usual. But as its visit to that place at the present moment might have aroused suspicions, the British Government has given orders that it should go direct to Madeira.

No. 117.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 1.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 28, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herein copy and translation of a paragraph which has appeared in the "Imparcial" newspaper of yesterday's date, stating that the French authorities have formally annexed the territory of Hassi-Inifel in the direction of Tuat, supposed to belong to Morocco.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Extract from the "Imparcial" of January 27, 1893.

(Translation.)

FURTHER FRENCH ADVANCE.—In addition to the English ultimatum to the Sultan of Morocco, which produced the excitement of the last few days, the French have made a further advance in the direction of Tuat. A detachment of the African battalion and of the Algerian Sharpshooters has occupied Hassi-Inifel with all due formalities, and the French flag was hoisted.

The inhabitants of the territory of In-Sallah, who considered that place as under their influence, made a corresponding protest.

Hassi-Inifel is distant from El-Geleah 110 kilom.; it lies on the road from Ghadamez to In-Sallah; it is one of the spots whose importance has been pointed out by Colonel Flattero.

No. 118.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Treaty.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 1, 1893.

I TRANSMIT to you, under flying seal, a note which I have addressed to Cid Emfadl Gharneet, which I have to request you will forward to its destination.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 119.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 17.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 1, 1893.

THE attention of Her Majesty's Government has of late years been frequently called to the condition of the Jews of Morocco, who are often subjected to much cruelty and oppression by the local authorities.

The subject is one which could not well be noticed in so formal a document as your general instructions, inasmuch as Her Majesty's Government have no strict Treaty right to interfere in Morocco except on behalf of British subjects or British-protected persons residing there.

It has, nevertheless, been the practice to bring to the notice of the Moorish Government any well-authenticated cases of cruelty or persecution of which the Jewish community have been victims. Such representations have, moreover, in

* See No. 121.

several instances had a distinct and beneficial effect, as the sufferings of the Jews are to be attributed rather to the capricious intolerance and cruelty of the local authorities than to any settled policy of persecution on the part of the Sultan and his Government.

As a case in point, I may mention the recent occurrences in Morocco city, when collective representations made by the British, Italian, and some other foreign Representatives were attended by immediate and satisfactory results.

The question is one in which I take a deep personal interest, and on general principles of humanity I should wish you to bear it in mind, and to continue to exert the influence of Her Majesty's Legation to obtain justice and freedom from oppression for the Jewish population of Morocco.

You should endeavour to secure, as far as may be possible, the co-operation of your foreign colleagues in any steps which you may be called upon to take with this object.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 120.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 18.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 1, 1893.

THE inclosed collection of printed correspondence relates to the question of sanitary reform at Tangier.

The matter has been for some time under discussion, and Sir C. Euan-Smith, when at Fez, was consulted by the Sultan on the subject, and, at His Majesty's request, drew up a Memorandum which he gave to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The sudden return of his Mission, in consequence of the failure of the negotiations for the conclusion of a Commercial Treaty, rendered further discussion impossible, and the matter dropped.

Upon the occasion, however, of the French Minister's visit to Fez later in the year, Count d'Aubigny succeeded in obtaining from the Sultan three Shereefian letters containing concessions of some importance.

These letters granted to the Sanitary Council at Tangier the right to establish a slaughter-house, the right to control the cleaning, paving, and drainage of the streets of Tangier, and the right to arrange for the supply of water to the town.

I regret to learn that some of the foreign Representatives have raised various objections, but the general opinion seems to be that great benefit would result if the proposed reforms can be successfully executed. There are, no doubt, many difficulties to be overcome, but, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would be deplorable were personal or international jealousies allowed to prevail to the extent of preventing even an attempt to utilize the concessions made by the Sultan.

I should wish you to give your early attention to the subject, and you should exert your influence to induce your colleagues to co-operate cordially in a work which has for its object the common benefit of all who reside in Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

List of Papers.

Sir C. Euan-Smith ..	..	..	..	..	(No. 79)	April	25, 1892.
Ditto ..	..	..	..	..	..	(No. 80)	April 25, "
Ditto ..	..	..	..	..	..	(No. 101)	May 31, "
Consul White ..	..	..	..	..	..	(No. 18)	June 10, "
Mr. Eliot ..	..	..	..	..	..	(No. 215)	November 17, "
Ditto ..	..	..	..	..	..	(No. 216)	November 18, "
Ditto ..	..	..	..	..	..	(No. 221)	November 21, "
Ditto ..	..	..	..	..	..	(No. 256)	December 26, "

The Earl of Rosebery to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 1, 1893.

THE Queen, my august Sovereign, having been pleased to appoint Sir J. West Ridgeway to be Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on a special mission to your Imperial Master, the Sultan of Morocco, I take the opportunity of recommending Sir West Ridgeway to your favourable consideration.

I feel convinced that your Excellency is, like myself, animated with a sincere desire for the promotion of friendly relations between the two nations, and that your Excellency will give due weight to the communications which it will be the duty of Sir West Ridgeway to lay before you, and that your Excellency will do what lies in your power to enable him to carry out the mission with which he has been intrusted, to the satisfaction of the Queen, my Sovereign, and of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; and in this pleasing assurance, I have, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 122.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 15.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 17, 1893.

THE French Ambassador on Monday asked me if I had seen an article in a journal called the "Heraldo," to the effect that his Excellency had proposed to the Spanish Government to send squadrons together to Tangier. This assertion M. Roustan energetically repudiated, saying that he had not made a proposal of any kind to Spain respecting Morocco.

In my telegram No. 33, Confidential, of the 11th August last, I stated, on the authority of the Duke of Tetuan, that "in foreign affairs almost the only preoccupation of the Spanish Government and people is Morocco." I find that there is a fixed idea in the Spanish mind that one day or another England will annex a part or the whole of that country. The position of Gibraltar constantly brings this idea into prominence.

It is considered that the establishment of any Power but Great Britain in Morocco would be menacing to the safety of Gibraltar, and it is the opinion of others besides Spaniards that Morocco will some day or other fall into our hands. No design or project is attributed to England for the purpose, but the realization of the idea is regarded as inevitable.

With this view, and knowing their own weakness, the Spanish Government and nation are constantly on the alert to detect in any movement by England in the Straits a step onward in this direction. Hence arises a strong susceptibility, to calm which I have recently ventured to make several suggestions to your Lordship, and the result of which has been successful.

The recent scare has fortunately subsided, but it will inevitably occur whenever the question of Morocco again comes to the front.

The Austrian and German Ambassadors were pressing in their advice to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Spain should associate herself with England in the affairs of Morocco, and combated the idea which some journals, and, I fancy, some diplomatists, suggested, that Morocco was at once to fall under the preponderance of England, like Egypt. The Marquis de la Vega de Armijo said to me more than once that he should, in dealing with Morocco, avoid the mistake committed by France in deserting the policy of England in Egypt, and that whatever course England would pursue Spain would be found at her side ship for ship. In realizing this asseveration I fear Spain would find some embarrassment, and I am informed that one of her anxieties is caused by the defective state of her navy, from which it would be difficult to detach a squadron at all in proportion to the ships which England, if she thought fit, might employ.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, January 19, 1893.

I HAVE communicated to the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 8 of the 16th instant, and of your telegram No. 4 of yesterday. His Excellency was much pleased with your Lordship's despatch, and the assurances contained in both documents. He said your Lordship had spoken in the same sense to the Spanish Ambassador in London. I alluded to them also to the French Ambassador, who informed me that he had this morning received instructions to disavow as entirely false certain newspaper reports, asserting that the French Government intended to dispatch either a squadron or division to Tangier. The French Government had received most satisfactory assurances from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires showed me four telegrams from his Government, of which the following is the substance:—

January 16.—Instructions to contradict newspaper reports that Italy would send ships to Tangier. She would not do so unless other Powers sent vessels, and even then only as a demonstration of the interest taken by Italy in the Mediterranean.

January 17.—The intention of Italy is confirmed by the abstention of England. Instruction to inform Spanish Government.

January 18.—Instructions to remove from Spanish Government apparent suspicions as to intentions of England. Such suspicions are proved to be unfounded by declarations of England at Rome.

January 18.—The Italian Ambassador in London telegraphs that the English Government do not intend to make any naval demonstration at Tangier. The new Minister will go there as usual with one ship of war.

The Italian Chargé d'Affaires informs me that he partakes the view of the German Ambassador as to the inclination of Spain in the first instance to lean towards France; but with M. de Radowitz he thinks that all doubt or mistrust has been allayed by the communications your Lordship instructed me to make here, and by your own language to the Marquis Casa Laiglesia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 124.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 18. Secret.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, February 2, 1893.

I HAVE been confidentially shown a telegram from Count Maffei, which states that although Marquis Vega de Armijo is much reassured as to the policy of Her Majesty's Government in Morocco, he cannot quite divest himself of the apprehension that England might be impelled by some turn of events to occupy Tangier before any one could prevent her.

No. 125.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 3, 1893.

I HAVE just been informed by the Agent of the African Bank that he has received telegraphic orders to close the Tangier branch at once.

At this moment such closure is most unfortunate, and cannot but lead to inference and surmises which would be politically undesirable.

No. 126.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 24. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 28, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith two interesting Reports by Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu: the first on the doings of the late French Mission at Fez, the second on the attitude of the Moorish Court to Great Britain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 126.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Tangier, January 25, 1893.

BEFORE commencing my narrative of the investigations in which I was engaged during my stay of four weeks at Fez into the political aims said to have been pursued by Count d'Aubigny on his recent mission, and the results, if any, achieved by him, it is perhaps right that I should point out to you that I entered upon this task under some disadvantages.

Difficulty of obtaining Information.—As far as the Moorish Government is concerned, my intercourse was entirely limited to Cid Emfadl Gharneet, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for I had never before this time found opportunities of cultivating close relations with other members or officials of the Shereefian Government, and I was convinced of the inadvisability on this occasion of endeavouring to establish them. Such an attempt would only have defeated its ends, for perfect uncommunicativeness, even on matters of merely every-day interest, and therefore more particularly on affairs of importance which do not directly concern the individual, is the quality by which every official feels his value to be gauged by his Lord and Master, and I should have been looked upon as an intruder, and should have forfeited the confidence of every one, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who would probably have taken serious offence at my proceedings. That I was not wrong in this surmise seems to be shown by the fact that the Minister for War, the Fekih Cid Mohammed Seghir, on whom I had once called when at Morocco city, and whom I then found of very pleasant intercourse, requested Kaïd Maclean to use his influence to prevent me from visiting him now, giving it as his reason that he dreaded the reputation of being a friend of Christians.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet's Attitude.—On the other hand, I found Cid Emfadl Gharneet extremely reticent on all matters concerning French political action, though he was somewhat fulsome in his eulogies of Count d'Aubigny, and endeavoured to express in a general way that the French Minister's activity had been entirely limited to the settlement of routine claims, in the course of which he had shown himself extremely amiable and accommodating. Allowance may be made for a desire to hold out a contrast to what Cid Gharneet would fain represent as the exceedingly exacting attitude of British diplomacy and the uncompromising bearing of Sir Charles Euan-Smith.

The consistent reserve of the Moorish Government as a whole may also suggest that they consider the mutual distrust between nations, on which they build their safety, to be sufficiently, and perhaps most efficaciously, fostered by surrounding their respective doings with a veil of mystery. At the same time, the very marked Francophil tone adopted on this occasion by Cid Emfadl Gharneet, which is a deviation from the ordinary hitherto practice, of professing to each nation devoted friendship for itself and indifference towards others, and the general drift of his information regarding the French, while they may be accounted for by a wish to place the weight of France on the Moorish side of the balance against a possible move on the part of Great Britain, are still so well calculated to further a preponderance of French influence in Morocco, and to facilitate the attainment of French aims, that, taken in conjunction with the behaviour of Cid Gharneet during the mission of M. Patenôtre in 1891, at which time I was also at the Shereefian Court, it lends support to the accusation which I have heard made against him, of being bought by French gold.

Having thus but small expectancy of learning anything from official quarters, and unfortunately not commanding any direct and proved source of secret information—an advantage which I could not have acquired without a prolonged residence on the spot—I was to a great extent limited to considering and discussing with its author the information imparted at various times by Kaïd Maclean.

Kaïd Maclean as a Source of Information.—There can be no doubt that this true patriot, whose sterling qualities have inspired his surroundings with a respect for the British character for years past, whilst they have earned for him a position of exceptional confidence at the Shereefian Court, is most favourably situated for gaining an insight into the temper and disposition of that body, and for obtaining information as to its secret diplomatic relations. Kaïd Maclean is at present our most direct and most reliable source for such information, though he may not be absolutely proof against attempts to convey, through him, what the Shereefian Court desire should be credited. I have not been able to obtain from him as full particulars as I should have desired as to the manner in which he acquired information and arrived at conclusions on various points of interest. He has, however, allowed me to know that he makes use of secret agencies, inaccessible to myself in my present position, for gaining intelligence. He also occupies a position exactly analogous to that of a Moorish officer at the Court or Government House, which he attends daily, and where he is admitted on the same footing as the highest officials of State, having maintained the character for discretion which is held in such high esteem among them.

Alliance between France, Russia, Turkey, and Morocco.—He has thus been able to assure me that the question of an alliance between France and Morocco, in which Russia and Turkey should figure, formed the subject of discussion among officials of the Court in a manner quite precluding the supposition that it can have been a false report conveyed to him with the object of alarming British opinion, and prevailing upon British diplomacy to abandon demands distasteful to the Sultan for fear of throwing Morocco into the arms of France. He also assured me that it had been decided not to entertain the French proposals on account of the following considerations: There could be no doubt that the proposal must have been dictated by some consideration of self-interest. The value of an alliance in the idea of the Court lay in the force which the nation whose alliance was sought was able to put into the field. Such an alliance might therefore, at any time, involve Morocco in a European war. Not only so, but Moorish military assistance, under existing circumstances, could be but of small value to a great European Power. Therefore, underlying the proposal under consideration, there must be some project for placing the Moorish forces on an efficient footing, in fact, for reorganizing the whole Moorish fabric of State under the tutelage of France. The entire scheme was, therefore, a circuitous one for establishing a French Protectorate over Morocco.

The above is the most detailed account I have become possessed of on this subject. Colonel Bregoli, the head of the Italian Military Mission at Fez, who is generally regarded as a very well informed person, confirmed to me the fact of a proposal of this nature having been laid before the Sultan by the French Minister, but added that he (Colonel Bregoli) lent no great importance to the circumstance, as it had only engaged the attention of the Moorish Court for a very short time and had soon been negatived.

An article in a French newspaper, dated the 28th October, in which the probabilities of a Franco-Russo-Turkish alliance were discussed, having shortly after this come under my notice, I took an opportunity of touching on the matter to Cid Emfadl Gharneet without mentioning Morocco. I, however, failed to draw him into conversation on the subject further than to elicit the opinion that Russia was really an ally of France.

Some time later I happened to meet a Moor, who, I have reason to believe, is very well informed on matters of political interest. His conversation disclosed a degree of intelligence and broadness of views rarely met with amongst his countrymen. I spoke to him in the same strain as I had done to Cid Emfadl Gharneet on the alleged project of an alliance between France, Russia, and Turkey, appearing at the same time to treat the idea as phantastic. "Yes," he immediately rejoined; "but that would not prevent the French from asserting its reality, with a view to inducing the Moors to join hands with them."

Alleged Overtures by Turkey.—I then examined my interlocutor as to the merits of an account which had been volunteered to me, some days previously, by a person professing to hold information from a fountain-head, an Alim who had been consulted by the Sultan as to the desirability of accepting or rejecting Count d'Aubigny's

political proposals. According to this account, the first overtures for the adhesion of Morocco to the alliance in question had proceeded from Turkey, and had been conveyed by an emissary who had come as the bearer of a present from the Sultan of Turkey to the Sultan of Morocco, consisting in two hairs from the beard of the prophet. I was soon able to establish the apocryphal character of this information, and the identity of the bearer of the supposed relic with an apparent lunatic who had obtained leave to travel up to Fez with Sir C. Euan-Smith's Mission under a recommendation from Hadj Mohammed Torres, but had been ejected from the camp in consequence of his disorderly conduct. It had become known at that time that this individual alleged himself to be conveying a letter from the Sultan of Turkey to the Sultan of Morocco. It appears that on his arrival at Fez he was received with some honour, and that he there delivered letters purporting to come from the Sheikh Zafer and Osman Pasha. Inquiries were, however, made regarding him through Cid Omar-el-Wazani, a member of the Grand Shereef's family residing at Constantinople, and he was discovered to be a Tunisian impostor, who had received no letter whatever from either of the two above-named distinguished persons; not only so, but relics of the alleged kind were not in existence. His present was therefore not accepted, and the Sultan was thinking of sending him away from Fez as quietly as possible.

My interlocutor, who seemed to indicate that he had been in some way concerned in these investigations, assured me most positively that no correspondence whatever has taken place recently between the Courts of Constantinople and Fez. He was equally confident that the overtures for an alliance had proceeded from the French Mission, and that the Sultan had not entertained them.

At the last interview I had with Cid Emfadi Gharneet, a favourable opportunity occurring, I asked his Excellency directly whether it was not true that Count d'Aubigny had made such overtures. Cid Gharneet immediately admitted the correctness of the information, and added that they had been met with a polite negative. He at the same time professed to attach small importance to the value of Russian friendship to France, as also to disbelieve the devotion of Turkey to those two Powers.

Tuat Question.—As regards the Tuat question, Cid Emfadi Gharneet originally on several occasions when I attempted to lead the conversation upon that topic, assured me energetically that it had been left altogether untouched by Count d'Aubigny on his mission, though before his arrival the Moorish Government had apprehended it would be made one of the subjects of his negotiations. He said that M. Patenôtre in his Mission in 1891 had invited the Moorish Government to exercise effective rule in the three oases and pay compensation for certain deeds of violence committed there, as otherwise the French Government would execute justice themselves on the inhabitants of those regions. Acting upon this suggestion the Sultan had appointed Kaïds there, and the country was now perfectly under Moorish control, in proof of which he cited the reception given there to the Shereef of Wazan, who had been ordered away by the inhabitants charged with the intention of bringing Christians into their country. The last communication that had passed on the subject was a letter from the French Legation, which he had exhibited to Sir Charles Euan-Smith, and in which it was declared that France disallowed the Moorish claim to sovereignty over Tuat, Gourara and Tidikelt, and intended to take such action as she might deem advisable there. The Moorish Minister inquired whether in my opinion silence following upon such a communication could be construed into acquiescence. I said that such a contention might possibly be raised. He then appeared suddenly to recollect that the letter had been replied to.

On a subsequent occasion, without addressing Cid Gharneet any question, I remarked to him that I had read in the French press two diametrically opposite accounts regarding Count d'Aubigny's attitude in the matter of Tuat; according to the one, he had declared categorically to the Moorish Government that France declined to recognize their jurisdiction over the oases; according to the other he had maintained a perfectly passive attitude and had abandoned the country to Morocco. Gharneet hastily interposed that the latter version was in accordance with truth.

At a later date I questioned him as to the foundation of rumours prevalent also in the French press of a great fermentation among the tribes of the oases, occasioned by the building of a French fort on the road between El-Goleah and Tusalah. He promised to make inquiries on the subject from soldiers who had just arrived from that part of the world, and a few days afterwards informed me that the rumours were quite correct, and that the French were in presence of an enemy 200,000 men strong, incited by the Senoussi's, a number of tribes under their jurisdiction in the south of Algeria extending to the borders of Tripoli having risen against them. I inquired somewhat

ingenuously what object the French could be pursuing in endeavouring to reach Tuat, to which Gharneet promptly replied that they desired to pass their railway through it, and that they had selected the eastern or desert route. I asked whether this selection had been made in consequence of a refusal on the part of Morocco to allow the railway to pass through Figuig. Gharneet denied this, but in a tone which appeared to me to be somewhat wanting in determination.

Finally, at my last interview with him I told him that it had been authoritatively stated that Count d'Aubigny had brought with him to Fez stringent instructions to declare to the Sultan that France in no manner recognized his sovereignty over Tuat, and I desired to know whether his action had been in accordance with this statement. Gharneet said that the Count had limited himself to laying down that France maintained the attitude defined in the last letter from the French Legation on this question (adverted to above), and that the subject had then been dropped.

It is thus clear that the Vizir almost up to the last moment persistently misrepresented to me the attitude of the French Mission in regard to the question of the Saharian oases, and there can be but little doubt that he has painted the position of the Moorish Government in the matter in far too favourable colours, though I do not believe that the Sultan has actually surrendered his claim to sovereignty over those oases, nor that he will desist from his attempts to exercise influence in them.

Kaïd Maclean has informed me that the French Minister in taking leave of the Sultan, informed His Majesty that he parted from him on terms of friendship, but that he felt sure that his Government would be much displeased at the rejection of his political proposals. It is also reported by eye-witnesses that Count d'Aubigny shewed dissatisfaction in his mien at his departure.

Railway from Tlemcen to Fez.—My account of the aims pursued by him would not be quite complete, were I not to add that I have good reason for believing, having heard it from three sources which seem to be completely independent of each other, that he worked a project for connecting by railway Tlemcen with Fez, or some point in the interior of Morocco. How according to two of these sources, Spain comes to be connected with the project, does not seem clear. It would appear that some promise of a very vague and indefinite kind may have been given on the subject by the Moorish Government, though my third informant, whose good faith I credit, evidently considers it open to doubt.

Shereef of Wazan.—As regards the position of the family of the Shereefs of Wazan, I have heard nothing whatever in confirmation of the statement that the French had endeavoured to extend the protection to the whole of that branch of Shereefs. Kaïd Maclean has told me that the Sultan had himself said that the question regarding Wazan was the most important of all those under negotiation with the French Minister, but I have been unable to ascertain its exact nature. It may possibly only concern the person of the new Grand Shereef and his brothers. Cid Gharneet informed me most emphatically that their protection was not recognized by Mulai Hassan, nor had that of their father Hadj Abdessalam been recognized, though Cid Mohammed Bargash had at Paris signed an engagement on behalf of the Sultan that the Shereef would be respected, and that his enemy, Abdeljebbar, who had been appointed Governor of Wazan, would be removed. It appears not unlikely that after what was known of the anti-French proclivities of the new Shereef Mulai El Arbi, the Sultan's susceptibilities have been aroused afresh by the discovery that he has accepted the suzerainty of France. In any case, it is certain that the Shereef has it in contemplation to visit the Shereefian Court shortly, and it was rumoured at Fez at the time of my departure that he would be accompanied by a member of the French Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 126.

Mr. de Ponthieu to Mr. Eliot.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Tangier, January 26, 1893.

DURING my recent stay of four weeks at Fez, I neglected no opportunity that offered itself of sounding the Vizir Cid Emfadi Gharneet in every possible direction, and of obtaining such extraneous information as I found within my reach as to the temper and disposition of the Sultan and his entourage. I regret that I am not able,

as a result of my researches, to report a very favourable state of affairs from the point of view of British interests.

I have no reason to doubt that on the final departure of Sir Charles Euan-Smith, *re infecta*, from the neighbourhood of the Shereefian capital, the feeling and tone of the Court was far rather one of exultation and victory than of alarm, and if a sound judgment can be based on the current expressions of opinion voted among them, their sentiment of security was founded on an implicit trust in the support of France, without which they appear to have been persuaded that England would have proceeded to hostilities against Morocco.

The prevailing disposition is sufficiently marked by the insolent language held to Kaïd Maclean, who was assured that unless the Sultan had had a special personal esteem for him, he, as being an Englishman, would have been dismissed from the Moorish service on the departure of Her Majesty's Minister.

It appears to be established beyond a doubt that the final collapse of the negotiations regarding a Commercial Treaty in July last was brought about by a letter received by the Court from the French Legation on the day before our departure from the camp at Ras-el-Ma, which determined the Sultan to refuse everything in the nature of a concession to the requirements of British trade. The exact nature of this communication has not, as far as I know, transpired.

I am equally confident that French influence has ever since then continued generally to work in a sense hostile to Great Britain at the Sultan's Court. It is a remarkable fact that the Moorish Government was provided with an Arabic translation of the first Blue Book issued by Lord Salisbury, before even copies accessible to the public had time to reach this country. Cid Gharneet's conversation betrayed also acquaintance with the second Blue Book. The effect produced was an undesirable one, as it appears to have conveyed to the Moorish mind the impression that the importance attached by Her Majesty's Government to the attainment of commercial advantages had been greatly exaggerated, and that, at any rate, Her Majesty's Government were not inclined to purchase such advantages at the cost of being in any way disagreeable to the Sultan.

On the other hand, I am inclined to think that the mission of Count d'Aubigny to the Court may have had a beneficial influence, inasmuch as it probably disclosed to the Sultan that French opinion was really not in disaccord with that expressed on behalf of England as to the desirability of the Sultan's adopting a more liberal commercial policy. An account, on which I, however, cannot place absolute reliance, seems to indicate that, on Count d'Aubigny's arrival at Fez, the Moorish Government immediately made overtures to him regarding their relations with England, and that these were met in a quite unexpected manner by the French Minister, who criticized their tortuous modes of procedure and the peculiar methods employed by them to deter the British Minister from pursuing his objects. It appears to me most probable that though it suited Count d'Aubigny to aid and abet the journalist, M. de Kerdec, who had gone up to Fez provided with a letter from M. Souhart, the French Chargé d'Affaires, in tendering advice and giving moral support to the Moorish Government in resisting British demands, still he did so in a manner that in no way committed him to an approval of all the means employed by his instrument for that purpose, or to a concurrence in all the views on commercial and economic questions which may have been professed by him in order to bring about the rejection of the British proposals. Had it been otherwise, it may be said that Count d'Aubigny would have had no ground to stand upon in himself putting commercial proposals before the Sultan. The brothers Maclean are strongly of opinion that he made an attempt to obtain adhesion to a Treaty of Commerce, and, in any case, it does not seem credible that the concessions he actually obtained were all that he sought, as they are nothing more than a few of the minor advantages contained in the draft of our proposed Treaty, to which the Sultan attributed so little importance that he never as much as expressed any objection to granting them. It is scarcely a tenable supposition that Count d'Aubigny can have given the Moorish Government any encouragement in its aversion to granting the right of free "cabotage," whereby the northern ports of this Empire are deprived of the blessings of plenty, when the grain is actually perishing in the garner of the south from a lack of consumers. Even in the matter of the exportation from Morocco of the two staple products of this soil, wheat and barley, I see no reason to believe that the French Minister has given advice to the Moorish Government in the sense of their own proclivities. This is the point on which all Moorish opposition to European commercial demands centres. Difficulties on all other points (except, perhaps, the reduction of export dues) may be regarded as merely subsidiary to this. It would

appear that the Sultan commands a certain amount of sympathy on this question among that portion of his subjects by which he is generally more immediately surrounded, the officials and retainers of his Court and the townspeople of Fez, Mequinez, and Morocco, whose interests lie not in the furtherance of the agriculture of the country, but in the cheapness of grain. It is asserted on behalf of the Moorish Government that the price of barley at Fez has become doubled since the permission for the exportation of this grain, which was granted in 1890, at the instance of the German Minister, for a period of three years, has been in force. A certain rise in price has in reality been occasioned principally by a bad harvest; but it has been eagerly seized on by the Moorish Government in order to prove their favourite theory that this country is incapable of doing more than supporting itself. After making due allowance for primitive views on economic questions, it is easy to see that the main consequence really apprehended by the Moorish Government from rendering permanent the permission to export wheat and barley at moderate duties is that in all probability the country would thereby be opened up, and the barriers against civilization and progress be overturned, for, these two grains being really the staple products of Morocco, European trading communities would become enlarged with the immeasurably greater opportunities thus offered to commerce; they would expand towards the interior, and would soon become a leaven leavening the whole lump. In face of such an invasion, the iniquities of Shereefian rule could not long continue to subsist intact.

This being the point of view from which the Moorish Government contemplate the main commercial concession advocated by us, it was not a matter for surprise that, on my merely suggesting to Cid Emfadh Gharneet that Her Majesty's Government were displeased with the manner in which their commercial proposals had been met last summer, the Vizir interposed very sharply that the Sultan and his Government were irrevocably determined never to permit the exportation of their two principal grains. There was a tone of violence and desperation in the manner in which this utterance was made which convinced me that, in the feeling of the Moorish Government, their stronghold is now in a more perilous situation than ever, and which tempts me to think that Count d'Aubigny has not evinced much sympathy with them in this matter.

The Vizir having thus led me on to the subject, I did not fail to develop in a purely academic manner grounds why the Moorish Government should abandon the position he had just defined. In fact, throughout the whole of my intercourse with him on this visit to Fez, I, without propounding anything whatever, never allowed an opportunity to escape me of speaking in favour of the commercial advantages desired by Her Majesty's Government, and of emphasizing the importance attached to their concession. I failed, however, to obtain any declaration of the intentions of the Shereefian Government in the matter further than that the failure of Sir C. Euan-Smith's negotiations had been caused by the intervention of evil spirits, and that now, please God, everything would be arranged, through my instrumentality, when a Minister again visited the Shereefian Court.

Cid Emfadh Gharneet affected great wonderment at the precipitation evinced by Sir Charles Euan-Smith in riding away from Ras-el-Ma when, as he said, the Sultan was quite on the point of concluding the Treaty with him. A little pressure disclosed, however, that His Shereefian Majesty had no intention of accepting a Convention containing the clause as to free "cabotage," as to which he was only ready to issue a Shereefian letter operating for a limited period, and, further, that even then the negotiations were not to be closed without further reference to His Majesty, whence it is clear that, had Sir Charles Euan-Smith remained on, the Sultan would not have authorized the signature of the Treaty until it had been effectually pruned of every advantage or concession deserving of the name.

It is abundantly evident to me that the present disposition of the Moorish Government excludes any intention to make an advance towards England in the matter of the Commercial Convention; they are simply awaiting the next move on the part of Her Majesty's Government, and are minded to remain faithful to their traditional policy of granting the least possible. What it may be practicable to wring from them must depend greatly on the attitude of other Powers. Nothing, however, that has come under my observation leads me to think that the Sultan is entirely indifferent to the possession of British friendship; on the contrary, he is, in a certain degree, anxious to cultivate it; but he wishes to retain it at the cheapest possible price, and it is impossible to gauge at present what is the limit to which he will go for that purpose. I am inclined to think that a Treaty like

that drawn up at the camp of Ras-el-Ma, or very much resembling it, would be attainable, but the matter will have to be carefully handled.

Some of the last words addressed to me by Cid Emfadi Gharneet afford a very good insight into the tactics employed by Moorish diplomacy to stave off measures of this nature and everything savouring of progress.

After enumerating a few affairs of secondary importance which have been brought to a conclusion during and since Sir Charles Euan-Smith's mission, and endeavouring to make much capital out of the settlement of matters the recollection of which can only evoke in us feelings of indignation at the extraordinary difficulties raised in regard to them, and the abnormal time during which they were allowed to remain in abeyance, Cid Gharneet reminded me of some old-standing private claims which Sir Charles Euan-Smith, when at Fez, had mentioned to the Sultan. The aggregate amount of British claims presented and not yet settled was computed roughly at 120,000 dollars, and it was proved to the Moorish Government that the sum admitted by themselves in past correspondence to have been recovered on this account from the debtors far exceeded the amount that had been handed over to the British Legation for payment to the creditors. The Sultan then met Sir Charles' overtures with a flat denial of the existence of such claims. The truth is that their settlement had been formally promised to Sir John Drummond-Hay on his mission in 1882, and that from that time to the date of Sir John's retirement it had progressed in a partial and unsatisfactory manner, and was then dropped, no efforts having since then availed to obtain a renewal of steps in the matter. There appears to be no doubt that considerable sums were embezzled by officials employed in the collection of the money. Cid Gharneet now reminded me of the amount yet due by the Moorish Government according to their own admission in writing to Sir John Drummond-Hay, and which he assessed at 10,000 dollars, and his intention was evidently to suggest a subject which might exhaustively occupy the attention of the Legation and divert it from commercial questions.

Here we see at once the main explanation of the unaccountable behaviour of the Moorish Government in matters of common justice, such, as for instance, the case of Juan Trinidad. Affairs of this kind are set up as obstacles to bar the way against the negotiation of measures of a general and extensive bearing. Had not a decided attitude been taken up by Her Majesty's Government in the case of Trinidad, negotiation on the subject would probably have been protracted over a long period. The Sultan is averse to reprimanding Hadj Mohammed Torres for his conduct, because it has been in accordance with his general principles of policy.

The same course has been pursued with regard to the minor personal claims above alluded to; they have been shelved for a considerable time, and now the moment has come when they may be put to further account as an obstruction to matters of more general interest, and their settlement may be used as a salve to momentarily allay British susceptibility.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEU.

No. 127.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 23rd instant respecting the indemnity granted by the Sultan to the British subject Artesani in compensation for the attempted kidnapping of his child, I have the honour to report that I have received the 100 dollars in question and have paid them to Mr. Artesani, whose receipt I inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Receipt.

RECEIVED from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires the sum of 100 dollars, being the amount paid by the Moorish Government as indemnity for the attempted kidnapping of my child by a Moorish soldier.

(Signed) ISIDRO ARTESANI.

Tangier, January 27, 1893.

No. 128.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 4, 1893.

A MESSENGER has just arrived from Fez with a reply to Eliot's note, copy of which was transmitted in his despatch No. 17.

The reply appears to me satisfactory. It transmits a copy of the reprimand administered to Torres, which is quite adequate.

No. 129.

Memorandum by Mr. Robertson.

Morocco.—"Status quo."

[See also—(a) Pages 2 and 4 of Print relative to *status quo* in the Mediterranean; (b) References in Foreign Office Memorandum of February 7, 1890 (pp. 2 and 4); (c) Sir H. Drummond-Wolff, No. 83, Telegraphic, December 9, 1892.]

THE following is a very brief sketch of the negotiations leading up to the "collective note" addressed to the Moorish Government by the Spanish, British, and Italian Ministers on the 12th March, 1887, which is, apparently, the "Agreement" to support the *status quo* in Morocco, referred to in Lord Vivian's No. 30, Very Confidential, of the 17th January, 1893.

In November 1886, the French Minister in Morocco obtained certain territorial concessions in the neighbourhood of Figuig, under the guise of a "rectification" of the Mauro-Algerian frontier, which gave ground for fearing the preponderance of French influence, and the eventual dismemberment of the Empire of Morocco.

Señor Moret, then Spanish Foreign Minister, at once called the British Ambassador's attention to the matter, expressed great uneasiness as to French designs and as to their effect on Spanish public opinion, asked whether Her Majesty's Government still held to their policy of supporting the *status quo* and of preserving the independence of the Sultan, and inquired, also, whether Spain could rely on the moral support of Her Majesty's Government if he should remonstrate with France on French policy in Morocco. In reply, the Spanish Government were formally assured of the moral support of Great Britain in any efforts "to secure the independence and integrity of Morocco," and they were advised to consult the Italian Government.

Mr. Green was, at the same time, told to sound his Spanish and Italian colleagues as to putting pressure on the Sultan to promise to make no further alienation of territory; they moved their Governments in this sense, and the Italian Government at once acceded to the suggestion, General Robilant stating that he thought the Powers interested in maintaining the *status quo* should unanimously adopt a firm attitude, in order to prevent the incident from being followed by more dangerous ones.

But the Spanish Government desired to go a step further, and proposed that Great Britain, Italy, Germany and Spain should enter into a common engagement binding themselves to support the integrity and independence of Morocco, and to maintain the *status quo*. The German Government, however, showed themselves disinclined to join in any such engagement, owing to their strained relations with France, though

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Mr. Kirby Green,
Nos. 1, 4, and 9,
January 14, 18, and 25,
1887.
Ditto, No. 11,
January 26, 1887.
Sir Clare Ford, Nos. 9
and 11, Confidential,
January 29 and
February 1, 1887.

To Sir Clare Ford,
No. 11, February 5,
1887.
Sir Clare Ford, No. 14,
February 8, 1887.

Mr. Kirby Green,
Telegraphic,
February 7, 1887.
Sir J. Lumley, Tele-
graphic, February 11;
ditto, No. 46,
February 11, 1887.
Sir Clare Ford,
No. 20, February 13,
1887.

To Sir E. Malet,
No. 75, February 17,
1887.

Sir Clare Ford,
No. 22, February 16,
1887.
Sir R. Malet, No. 80,
February 19, 1887.
Sir Clare Ford, Tele-
graphic, February 23,
1887.

Mr. Kirby Green,
No. 27, February 23,
1887.
To ditto, Telegraphic,
March 7, 1887.
Mr. Kirby Green,
No. 32, March 2,
1887.

Ditto, No. 87,
March 12, 1887.
M. Catalani, com-
munique, September 7,
1887.

Sir W. Green, No. 20,
February 27, 1890.
See Print, Morocco,
1890, Part III, p. 31.
No. 52.

they concurred in the opinion that the *status quo* should be maintained. In response to an inquiry of Sir E. Malet on the point, Count Bismarck said he had recommended that Spain should come to an understanding with England and Italy.

Eventually, the Spanish Government agreed to the proposed note to the Sultan; it was concerted by the three Representatives at Tangier, and, after some discussion as to details, was finally approved and presented to the Moorish Government on the 12th March, 1887.

An evasive reply was returned to it, and a long correspondence followed, extending to a variety of subjects connected with "protection," which are dealt with in detail in my Memorandum of the 29th February, 1892.

It included a proposal made by the Sultan, that the European Powers should agree to neutralize his dominions, but this fell through owing to the breakdown of the proposed Conference at Madrid, and ultimately the note of the 12th March, 1887, was formally accepted by the Sultan on the 7th February, 1890.

(Signed) C. B. ROBERTSON.

Foreign Office, February 4, 1893.

No. 130.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 1, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I arrived at Tangier yesterday in Her Majesty's ship "Phaeton," and that I have entered on the discharge of my official duties.

I was received with the usual honours by the local authorities, and Hadj Mohammed Torres, the Sultan's Agent for Foreign Affairs, and the Basha of the town met me on landing.

Several of the foreign Representatives also sent officials of their Legations to bid me welcome.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 131.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord,

Rome, February 1, 1893.

I TOOK an opportunity last night, at a ball at the French Embassy, to convey to Signor Brin, according to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 18 of the 27th ultimo, the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had learnt from me his language on the subject of British policy in Morocco, the confidence he had expressed in its disinterestedness, and his promise to support the Mission of Sir West Ridgeway.

His Excellency thanked me for this friendly message, as well as for the satisfactory explanation which I was able to give him, founded on Sir Drummond-Wolff's telegram No. 13 of the 26th ultimo, of the report he had received from Madrid of the alleged anxiety of the Spanish Government at the rumoured dispatch of a British naval squadron to the neighbourhood of Tangier, as to which he had questioned me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VIVIAN.

No. 132.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 38. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, February 2, 1893.

SIGNOR BRIN has been good enough to communicate to me, in strict confidence, a telegram, dated the 30th January, which Count Maffei, the Italian Ambassador at Madrid, had sent to him after his return to his post, recording a conversation he had had with the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the affairs of Morocco, of which the following is a correct summary.

Marquis Vega di Armijo had frankly admitted to Count Maffei that he could not altogether divest his mind of the apprehension that matters might take a turn which would impel England to occupy Tangier by a *coup de main* before other Powers were in a position to prevent it.

Count Maffei had replied, with equal frankness, that the actual situation did not appear to him to justify such an apprehension, and that, in any case, when England loyally asked for the co-operation of Spain in maintaining the *status quo* in Morocco, it was impossible to doubt her good faith, or to refuse her the support she asked to a policy which so entirely met the views and interests of Spain, and which had always been consistently supported by Italy.

The Minister could not deny this, and fully recognized that it was the only possible course to take, and that it was preferable to playing into the hands of France, of whose ambitious designs he expressed suspicion.

The Marquis Vega di Armijo denied that he had ever suspected Italy of pursuing a policy of systematic hostility to France in Morocco, and on this point Count Maffei reports that he gave the Minister categorical assurances in accordance with his instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) VIVIAN.

No. 133.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 15.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 23, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, in virtue of the discretionary power granted me by your Lordship's telegram No. 6 of the 21st instant, I have this day paid the whole indemnity of 5,000 dollars to the mother of Juan Trinidad.

It did not appear to me possible to divide the money among the other relatives, consisting of two brothers and a sister. The two brothers are both minors, one is an idiot, and the other absent and said to have disappeared. The sister is married to a Spaniard, lives in Andalusia, and was in no way dependent on the deceased.

It would no doubt have been more satisfactory to have paid the money over to a trustee who could have seen that it was properly invested, the interest paid to the mother, and the capital divided among her children on her death. But no one could be found to undertake this duty, and I was unwilling to pay her under conditions which might imply that Her Majesty's Legation had any interest or responsibility in connection with the expenditure of the money after it had once been paid.

I therefore gave her the money absolutely, merely receiving a verbal promise that she would invest it at Gibraltar and not touch the capital, which is to be divided at her death among her children.

I inclose herewith her duplicate receipt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 133.

Receipt.

RECEIVED from Her Britannic Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires in Tangier the sum of 5,000 dollars, being the indemnity paid by the Moorish Government for the murder of my son Juan Trinidad.

(Signed) ANA MATIA TRINIDAD.

January 23, 1893.

No. 134.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 16.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 23, 1893.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 4 of the 18th instant I lost no time in dispatching to Cid Emfadi Gharneet the letter of which I have the honour to transmit a copy herewith, informing him of the appointment of Sir West Ridgeway, and desiring him to communicate the same to the Sultan.

I also informed Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres of the appointment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure in No. 134.

Mr. Eliot to Cid Emfadi Gharneet.

(Translation.)

(Compliments.)

Tangier, January 19, 1893.

I AM instructed by Lord Rosebery to make known to your Excellency, for your own information and for communication to His Majesty the Sultan, that Her Majesty the Queen of England and Empress of India has decided to send the Right Honourable Sir West Ridgeway as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on a special mission to the land of Morocco. And he is a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council and decorated with many distinguished Orders. Also I am ordered to say that Her Majesty's Government do not doubt that His Shereefian Majesty will approve of the choice of the Envoy sent to him, and that the said Envoy will meet with a cordial reception.

I beg you to bring all this to the knowledge of His Shereefian Majesty.

Peace.

No. 135.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 17.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 23, 1893.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram I dispatched at once to Fez the note addressed to Cid Emfadi Gharneet of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith, informing his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government insist on a proper reprimand being addressed to Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres for his conduct in the Trinidad case, and urging that the necessary measures should be taken before the arrival of Sir West Ridgeway.

Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu, who has just returned from Fez, informs me that after the dispatch of the letter which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship in my despatch No. 14 of the 18th instant, he continued to urge that a letter of censure should be sent to Torres. After much discussion he was shown the Shereefian letter, a translation of which is inclosed, and which has been duly sent to its destination. It is, however, as your Lordship will observe, merely an order to the Sultan's Agent to keep on friendly terms with myself, without any word of censure for his behaviour in the past.

In my despatch No. 14 of the 18th instant I submitted to your Lordship the proposition that the murderer of Trinidad should be imprisoned for the same term of years which he would have had to have undergone had he killed a Mahomedan. I find, however, on inquiry, that under such circumstances the murderer would only have been imprisoned for one year after payment of the blood-money, and I do not know if your Lordship would assent to so brief a punishment in this case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Shereefian Letter to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)

(L.S.)

(After compliments.)

20th Jumad II, 1310.

YOU are not unaware of the special friendship inherited from father to son existing between our Shereefian Government [sic], which nothing that occurs can change, and whose vows nothing [literally, no violator] can break, and that I am still on the same footing with that Government.

Therefore I command you to treat their Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Eliot, in accordance therewith, and that you pay him attention in the affairs which he may have to place before you, and assist him in their settlement in accordance with justice. Such treatment of him, and such assistance rendered him, is in truth assistance rendered to my Shereefian Majesty.

Peace.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Mr. Eliot to Cid Emfadi Gharneet.

(Compliments.)

Tangier, January 19, 1893.

THE Khalifa, Mr. de Vismes, has duly sent me your Excellency's letter in which you inform me that His Shereefian Majesty has ordered the imprisonment of the murderer of Juan Trinidad and the immediate payment of the indemnity of 5,000 dollars. And this is well.

But in my letter of the 31st December I asked for three things, and of these three things you have only granted two, and the third thing was that the Sultan should mark his displeasure at the conduct of the Naib Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres. And though the Khalifa writes to me that you promised in words to send a reprimand to the said Hadj Mohammed Torres, there is no mention of such a thing in any of the letters you sent me, and the letter addressed to Torres is not a reprimand, but rather the contrary.

Therefore, I telegraphed to the Vizir, Lord Rosebery, and have received his reply, and I am ordered to say that Her Majesty's Government insist on a proper reprimand being sent to Hadj Mohammed Torres, because, as I have explained to you in my former letters, he prevented the Basha from granting justice, which the latter was ready to do. For this reason it is necessary that a Shereefian letter should be sent censuring the said Torres. And I trust that this matter will be settled before the arrival of the new Minister, about whom I have written to you in my last letter, for he will receive stringent instructions respecting the matter. And it is better to grant my just demand now, and thus give a proof of your friendship, than to grant it later, and make it plain you are not friendly.

Further, it is said in the letters that the soldiers accused of the murder are to be imprisoned till the affair of the calamity is cleared up. God forbid that I should hinder you from satisfying yourself of their guilt and examining all the evidence, but when you have examined it and compared it with my letter of the 22nd December, your Excellency's perfect integrity and conspicuous discrimination will at once convince you that one of the soldiers killed the Englishman. Of this there can be no doubt. And we know the name of that soldier, and it will be necessary to keep him (and perhaps others) in prison for a certain period. And when I have received the orders of Lord Rosebery I will tell you what that period is.

Peace.

No. 136.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Tangier, January 23, 1893.

YOUR Lordship is aware, from Sir C. Euan-Smith's despatch No. 144 of the 8th August last, of the main facts connected with the kidnapping of an English child by Moorish soldiers.

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Some three weeks ago a local lawyer, representing Mr. Arksani, the father of the child in question, called on me and asked me to instruct Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu to make some representation on the case at Fez.

Being aware that a series of failures to gain any redress for British complaints against the Moorish Government had produced a bad effect in the English colony here, I replied that I would ask Mr. de Vismes to draw the attention of the Court to this subject.

I instructed Mr. de Vismes to cite this case, in connection with the murder of Trinidad, as an instance of lawless violence on the part of Moorish soldiers, and to say that any proposals on the part of the Sultan to grant reparation would produce a favourable effect. I did not, however, in any way ask for the payment of any indemnity or compensation.

The Sultan, after hearing the language held by Mr. de Vismes to Cid Emfadl Gharneet, sent to me an order for the payment of 100 dollars compensation to the parents of the kidnapped child.

I have had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 9, instructing me to assent to this arrangement, and shall see that the indemnity is immediately paid to the parents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 137.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 22, 1893.

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the ill-treatment of Jews at Morocco city, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter from the Sultan censuring the Kaïd of the Mellah of Morocco for his conduct, and also a letter of the Vizir Gharneet, assuring the Jewish population of that town of the Sultan's good-will towards them, which have been communicated to me in answer to the letter which I dispatched to the Vizir on the 31st ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 137.

Shereefian Letter to the Governor of the Jewish quarter of Morocco City.

(Translation.)

TO our worthy slave the Kaïd Mohammed Ouida. May God give you prosperity and peace be upon you and the mercy of God (which premised). It has come to my Shereefian knowledge that you do not behave well towards the Jews of the Mellah of Morocco, and that you treat them badly by beating them grievously, and particularly the children and old people among them, and imprisoning them laden with chains, and fining them; this has been reported of you in all circles. I am surprised that you should treat them in this manner, as it is contrary to what I have seen of your knowledge of affairs and judgment as to consequences and aversion to oppressing the servants of God. Do you not know that oppression means torture on the day of resurrection? Therefore, refrain from that, and behave well towards the said Jews, and treat them in the same manner as you treat Mussulmans under your jurisdiction, judging them in accordance with justice in their affairs cognizable before the Makhzen in the same manner as you do to Mussulmans, and treating them in the same manner in all things without distinction, and referring their affairs cognizable by Shraa to their Elders and Rabbi, and behaving towards those of them who are under protection in accordance with laws and Treaties. And if any one of them refuses to do justice or to carry out a decision, make out a document against him to that effect, and send it to my Shereefian Majesty, so that negotiation may take place with the person protecting him in the requisite manner.

Peace.

7th Jumadi II, 1310.

Inclosure 2 in No. 137.

Answer returned to the Jews of Morocco.

(Translation.)

FROM the servant of God (be he exalted) the Vizir of Foreign Affairs of His Shereefian Majesty (may God exalt him and perpetuate his greatness) Mahommed El Mufaddal-ben-Mohammed Gharneet (may God be in his favour), to all the Jews of the Mellah of Morocco, and particularly the Rabbis and Elders of their communities, and their merchants and notables. It has come to the Shereefian knowledge of our lord, whom may God exalt, that your Governor, Kaïd Mohammed Ouida Essussi, has not behaved well towards you, and that he has treated you in an improper manner, and that he has been severe to you. This does not commend itself to our lord (to whom may God give the victory), and does not please him, because you are his tributaries and his subjects, and His Majesty (whom may God strengthen) does not desire that you should be ill-treated and oppressed, or hardly dealt with, but His Majesty wishes that you should be secured against all this, and in a happy condition and satisfactory state of life.

His Majesty is very much pained by what has occurred, having heard this about you from people; he has not heard it from you; but it was your right to communicate these facts in writing to His Majesty in the same way as some of your merchants and Headmen write to His Majesty about affairs. And His Majesty has commanded me to write to you that you should write to me regarding what happens to you after this manner, so that I may inform His Majesty, and also to inform you that His Majesty has issued his order to the said Governor to behave well towards you and to treat you in the same way as he treats the Mussulmans under his jurisdiction, judging the affairs cognizable by the Makhzen in accordance with justice in the same way as he judges Mussulmans, and to treat you like them in all matters without distinction, and to refer your affairs cognizable by Shraa to your Elders and Rabbis, and to treat those of you who are protected in accordance with Treaty and law, and whoever tries to evade this he should inform our lord of it.

Finished Jumadi II, 1310.

No. 138.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 26 A.)
My Lord,

Tangier, January 30, 1893.

I OBSERVE that the newspapers report disturbances in the Angera country which, compared with the news current in Tangier, appear to be considerably exaggerated. The facts, as far as I have been able to ascertain them, are as follows:—

The Kaïd of Angera, Emkished, who is disliked by the tribe, resides at Tangier. In consequence a Lieutenant-Governor named Khanja was appointed, who was more to the taste of the inhabitants. Lately, however, the Sultan appointed a second Lieutenant-Governor called Hamel, an Angera man himself, but in very bad odour because he is supposed to have been the cause of Imperial troops being sent to suppress the late rebellion. He had hardly assumed his functions before he was surrounded by his tribesmen and given to understand that if he did not at once retire into private life, the consequences might be very disagreeable to himself. He prudently expressed his willingness to return to his native village and live in peace, but the Sultan may naturally object to this retirement of his nominee. A few days ago Tangier was full of Angeras said to have been summoned by Cid Mohammed Torres in order to inquire into the matter.

As far as is known here, the celebrated Hamam, the leader of the late rebellion, who is still in hiding, took no active part in this dispute, but it appears that some time ago he had an encounter in which he wounded, but did not kill, three men. I have not been able to discover the cause of this encounter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 139.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 24. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 8, 1893.

I HAD the pleasure of receiving the Spanish Ambassador for the first time this afternoon.

After he had presented to me copies of his letters of credence, and requested me to take the Queen's pleasure with regard to an audience, I told his Excellency I had received news that the Sultan of Morocco had sent the rebuke we demanded to his Agent at Tangier, and, therefore, that the incident connected with the murder of the British subject, Trinidad, might be considered as terminated.

I then proceeded to say that the Mission of Sir West Ridgeway, which had caused so much animadversion, had for its object only to smooth down ("aplanir et adoucir") the relations between Great Britain and Morocco, which had been left in a somewhat strained condition. I also mentioned, as a proof of my anxiety to conciliate the Spanish Government, the arrangement made that the Channel Squadron should not approach Moorish waters, but proceed direct from Vigo to Madeira without, as usual, touching at Gibraltar.

His Excellency, in thanking me, stated that the French had done all they could to stir up a spirit of suspicion against Great Britain in Morocco, and, while expressing the utmost anxiety to remain on confidential terms with the Spanish Government, and to elicit its views, had abstained from giving any information as to what they themselves had done there.

That, I replied, was precisely the confidential relation which existed between us and the French Government with regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 140.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 21.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 9, 1893.

I HAVE to request you to inform Mr. Eliot that I have received his despatch No. 15 of the 23rd January, reporting that he has paid over to the mother of Juan Trinidad the whole of the indemnity awarded by the Moorish Government for her son's murder; and that his proceedings, as therein recorded, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 141.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 22.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 9, 1893.

I HAVE received Mr. Eliot's despatch No. 18 of the 23rd ultimo, reporting the circumstances under which the Sultan has forwarded to him the sum of 100 dollars as compensation for the attempted kidnapping of an English child by Moorish soldiers in the autumn of last year.

Mr. Eliot's action in this matter is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

ADRIAN J. J.

No. 142.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 27.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 3, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a note which I have addressed this day to Cid Emfadl Gharneet, informing him of my arrival at Tangier on a special and temporary mission.

In notifying my appointment to the Sultan, Mr. Eliot, under instructions from your Lordship, informed the Vizir that it was necessary to finally settle the Trinidad case by administering a reprimand to Hadj Mohammed Torres, and desirable to do so before my arrival. As the reprimand in question had not reached Tangier by this evening, I likewise dispatched to the Court the second letter of which I have the honour to transmit a copy herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 142.

Sir West Ridgeway to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

(Compliments.)

Tangier, February 3, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have arrived at Tangier, and taken charge of this Legation, as Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, on a special and temporary mission.

I request your Excellency to inform the Sultan of my arrival, and to assure His Shereefian Majesty that, in obedience to the instructions I have received from Her Majesty's Government, it will be my endeavour to promote cordial relations between the two Governments, and to draw closer the bonds of friendship which have so long united Great Britain and Morocco.

I trust His Shereefian Majesty is in good health, and I beg your Excellency to lay before him my respects and best wishes.

Inclosure 2 in No. 142.

Sir West Ridgeway to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

ON the 19th January (the 30th Jumad II) the Naib Mr. Eliot addressed a letter to your Excellency calling attention to the fact that he had not been informed by you that a reprimand had been sent to Cid Torres for his conduct in the Trinidad case, as demanded by Her Majesty's Government.

The Naib informed you that he had received the orders of the Vizir Lord Rosebery to insist on a proper reprimand being sent to Torres, and he expressed the hope that the matter would be settled before my arrival, because I had received stringent instructions respecting the matter.

Though your Excellency's reply has not yet reached Tangier, I doubt not that you have already taken the necessary steps to grant the demands of the Naib, and that you have sent the reprimand as required by Her Majesty's Government. I should deeply regret if this matter were not settled, for it is my desire to entertain the most friendly relations with your Excellency and the Shereefian Court, and not to begin my mission by taking up a dispute which has already lasted too long.

Peace.

Dated the 3rd February, 1893, corresponding to the 15th Rejeb, 1310.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 143.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 28.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 6, 1893.

A SPECIAL courier arrived from Fez the day before yesterday, with answers to Mr. Eliot's two letters transmitted to your Lordship in his despatch No. 17 of the 23rd ultimo.

I have the honour to transmit herewith translations of these two documents, as also of the Shereefian letter inclosed in the second, reprimanding Hadj Mohammed Torres for his conduct in the Trinidad case. This reprimand appears to me to be quite sufficient in its terms, and to satisfactorily conclude the incident which was at one time so threatening.

It is usual for Ministers to call on Hadj Mohammed Torres immediately on arriving. I judged it, however, impolitic to pay such a visit until the receipt of the Sultan's reply to your Lordship's demands, particularly as it was impossible to tell what that reply might be. I therefore desired Mr. de Vismes to call on the Sultan's Agent and inform him that, as His Majesty's reply might be daily expected, I proposed to defer my visit until its receipt. Mr. de Vismes reported that Hadj Mohammed Torres seemed somewhat perturbed by this message.

As soon as the Sultan's reply arrived I made arrangements to pay the visit to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Mr. Eliot.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received your letter to the effect that the Vizir Lord Rosebery had written to you to inform me that Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, Empress of India, had ordered that Sir West Ridgeway be sent as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on a special mission to the Shereefian Government, and that this Envoy is a member of Her Majesty's Privy Council and of many of her distinguished Orders; and that the British Government has no doubt that His Shereefian Majesty will approve the choice of this Envoy to His Majesty, and that he will be received with all friendship and cordiality; and you asked that His Shereefian Majesty be informed of this.

I have communicated your letter to His Shereefian Majesty, and all that you stated has been brought to his knowledge; and His Majesty has commanded me to answer you that whatever the friendly Government approves is approved, and that the friendly Government will only select for that position a person who will act in accordance with its friendship by striving to promote good relations between the two countries, and following after those things which are calculated to increase their union and to draw tighter and strengthen the bonds of friendship between them. His Majesty bids welcome to the Envoy and to every one who may come from the great Government. Be he welcome, therefore, in the dominions of our lord, to whom may God give victory.

Finished the 10th Rejeb, 1310 (29th January, 1893).

(Signed) MOHAMMED-EL-MUFADDAL-BEN-MOHAMMED GHARNEET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Mr. Eliot.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received your letter to the effect that the Vizir Lord Rosebery had informed you that the British Government insists on a proper reprimand being sent to the Naib Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres, on account of his having impeded the Basha

from executing justice in the case of the English Christian who was killed at Tangier, although he (the Basha) was ready to execute it; and you ask that the said Naib should be addressed in this sense, for the reasons which you explained.

I have communicated your letter to the Sultan, and His Majesty ordered that he should be written to in that sense, and this was done.

A copy of the letter is herewith inclosed.

Finished the 10th Rejeb, 1310 (29th January, 1893).

(Signed) MOHAMMED-EL-MUFADDAL-BEN-MOHAMMED GHARNEET.

Inclosure 3 in No. 143.

Shereefian Letter to the Naib Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(Translation.)

To our trusty officer Hadj Mohammed-ben-el-Arbi Torres:

May God make you prosperous, and peace be upon you and the mercy of God (after which)—

WHAT we have seen of you is that you take up with energy and assiduity the offences committed by people of this country against foreigners and report them (accurately) to our Shereefian Majesty, so that we may order the steps required by justice to be taken. Now you have done the contrary of this in the case of the Englishman who was killed at Tangier, so that the British Chargé d'Affaires there wrote to our Shereefian Court complaining that you did not see that the satisfaction to which they were proved to be entitled was given them, through the Governor, in that affair. You should not have acted thus; we do not approve of it, nor of hearing this of you, because it is most right that justice should be followed. Therefore you should give your attention to matters of this nature, and report their circumstances (accurately) to us immediately, so that we may order the steps required by justice to be taken.

Peace.

10 Rejeb, 1310 (January 29, 1893).

No. 144.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 29.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 6, 1893.

I CALLED on Cid Mohammed Torres to-day under the circumstances explained in my last preceding despatch, and, after exchanging the usual salutations and compliments, spoke to him in the sense of my letter to the Vizir Gharneet transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 30 of the 6th instant.

The Sultan's Agent, who is well known for the vagueness of his language, said nothing definite in reply. The only important point in his conversation was that he alluded to the reprimand sent him by the Sultan, which had apparently much pained him. He said it was unmerited, as he had merely declined to take upon himself the responsibility of deciding the case, and referred the whole matter to Fez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 145.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 30.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 6, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the inclosed copy of a note which I have addressed to the Vizir Cid Emfadl Gharneet on the conclusion of the Trinidad murder case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 145.

Sir West Ridgeway to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.(Translation.)
(After compliments.)

I HAVE received copy of the reprimand which, by His Shereefian Majesty's order, has been addressed to Cid Mohammed Torres, with great satisfaction, for it closes, I hope, a question which at one time threatened the friendly relations between England and Morocco.

It would indeed be a misfortune if that ancient friendship were disturbed. The interests of England and Morocco are the same, and therefore England desires that Morocco should remain an independent nation, wisely administering its own affairs free from the control of any foreign Power.

It is for His Shereefian Majesty to consider how far the friendship of England is essential to his interests, but friendship must be reciprocal, and if at any time, which God forbid, Morocco should show that she did not desire or value the friendship of England, then it would be for England to safeguard her own interests, a course which she would have no difficulty in following.

For these reasons I welcome this proof of His Majesty's desire to retain this ancient friendship, and I specially rejoice that this grave difficulty has been removed without my intervention, and that the necessity has not arisen for my diverging even for a moment from the path of sincere and friendly intercourse which I hope firmly to pursue while accredited to the Shereefian Court.

Peace.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 146.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received February 14.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 13, 1893.

AN intimation having been given to the Vice-Admiral commanding the Channel Squadron, in accordance with the views expressed by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that it would be inexpedient for a British squadron to be at Gibraltar early in the present month, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform Lord Rosebery that Vice-Admiral Fairfax, who is now cruising to Madeira, proposes to visit Gibraltar about the third week in this month.

My Lords earnestly hope that no objection will be seen to this proposal, as it will be extremely inconvenient if the ships are not permitted to go to that place, which has always been considered as one of the ordinary stations of the Channel Squadron.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

P.S.—The squadron at present cruising with Vice-Admiral Fairfax consists of:—

"Royal Sovereign" (flag), (first class battle-ship).

"Rodney" (ditto).

"Immortalité" (first class cruiser).

"Bellona" (third class cruiser).

"Speedwell" (first class gun-boat).

E. M.

No. 147.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, February 15, 1893.

YOU may take a convenient opportunity of telling the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Channel Squadron will touch at Gibraltar on its return to the Mediterranean from Madeira.

As Gibraltar is one of the head-quarters of the fleet, I cannot again prevent its going there.

No. 148.

The Earl of Rosebery to Lord Vivian.

(No. 33 A.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, February 15, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 4th ultimo, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, in conversation with me to-day, recurred to the question of the Board of Health for Tangier, and inquired if I had sent any instructions on the matter to Sir West Ridgeway.

I informed Count Minerbi that my position was unchanged, and that, if invited by the Sultan, I was ready to co-operate in so useful and necessary a work.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 149.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 23.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 15, 1893.

I HAVE read with interest the reports by Mr. de Ponthieu of his journey to Fez, that accompanied Mr. Eliot's despatch No. 24 of the 28th ultimo; and I have to request you to convey to that gentleman my approval of his proceedings, which appear to have been characterized by tact and discretion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 150.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 31.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 10, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 17 of the 1st instant, respecting the condition of Jews in Morocco, and to assure your Lordship that the matter shall have my best attention during my mission in this country.

Difficult as it is to find any adequate means of permanently ameliorating the position of Moorish Jews, the question has one satisfactory aspect, namely, the readiness of several of my colleagues—in particular the Representatives of Italy, Portugal, Belgium, and the United States—to join in any representation dictated by general principles of humanity.

In this connection I may mention that I have received an application from a Jewish lady of Mogador, Miss Corcos, who is anxious to establish an Anglo-Jewish School in Morocco city, and to obtain my assistance in acquiring the necessary site and building. Should a favourable opportunity occur, I propose to support this project with whatever representations to the Sultan it may seem desirable to make.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 151.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 16.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 10, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 18 of the 1st instant, respecting the sanitary Concessions granted to Count d'Aubigny.

This question has already engaged my serious attention, and formed the subject of informal discussion between myself and my Austrian, Italian, and Spanish colleagues, all of whom—and particularly M. Cantagalli—appear anxious to utilize

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these important Concessions. This desire is also shared by the Portuguese and American Representatives.

There are, however, certain initial material difficulties to be surmounted before any practical steps can be taken.

In the first place, the majority of the foreign Representatives objected to the manner in which they were apprised of the grant of these Concessions. The communication was made through the French Minister, and not by the Sultan or His Majesty's Agent in Tangier.

This difficulty is, however, already partially, and will soon, I trust, be wholly removed, as Hadj Mohammed Torres will, in all probability, shortly address a note to the Corps Diplomatique on the subject which will meet the wishes of all the Representatives.

Next, but far more important, is the question of finance. The Sherceefian letters may be reasonably interpreted as authorizing foreign Ministers to tax the subjects of their respective Governments resident in Tangier for the purpose of carrying out the Concessions.

As, however, foreigners are exempt by Treaty from taxation, it will be necessary for the respective Governments to render them liable to it by legislation or otherwise. The great majority of the foreign population is Spanish, and I greatly doubt if the Spanish Government will sanction, or even attempt, the legislation which Senhor Figuera informs me is necessary.

To-morrow I propose to see my French colleague on the matter, and there will probably soon be a meeting of the Ministers to consider the subject.

Your Lordship can rely upon my using my best endeavours to prevent personal or international jealousies from causing the miscarriage of these much-needed reforms, but it is useless to disguise the fact that even when the financial obstacles have been overcome, the machinery by which the Concessions are to be worked presents serious difficulties. It is awkward for the Corps Diplomatique to construct and manage waterworks and slaughterhouses, and it will probably be necessary to delegate their functions to some other body. For this the Sultan's permission would be necessary, even if all the Representatives would assent to the course. It is generally believed that His Majesty has granted the Concessions in question under the conviction, not altogether unfounded, that the various Ministers will never agree on a common course of action, and that should this expectation not be fulfilled, he will find some other means of withdrawing from his engagements to Count d'Aubigny.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 152.

Foreign Office to Admiralty.

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 16, 1893.

IN reply to your letter of the 13th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that his Lordship sees no objection to the proposed visit of Admiral Fairfax, with the squadron under his command, to Gibraltar, on his return from Madeira to the Mediterranean.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 153.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 50. Most Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 12, 1893.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs informed me yesterday that he had heard from Señor del Mazo of his first interview with your Lordship, with the result of which his Excellency is much pleased. He told me that your Lordship had renewed assurances of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to act in accordance with Spain in matters relating to Morocco and the Mediterranean generally, and he was glad to perceive from your Lordship's language the desire that Great Britain and Spain should preserve the closest ties of friendship.

His Excellency also told me that the Count de Rascon, the new Spanish Ambassador to Italy, had written in similar terms of his interview with the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Brin had counselled Spain to beware of France, and to maintain candid relations with England and Italy. The Marquis de la Vega de Armijo seemed impressed with the advice to a certain extent. He intimated his dread of France, and his desire to maintain a candid friendship with Her Majesty's Government, but he added, in very guarded language, that he could not see an equal necessity of the same extent of co-operation with Italy.

The German Ambassador has more than once told me that the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo had always avoided reference to understandings between Spain and England and Italy as to the *status quo* in the Mediterranean.

M. de Radowitz thought that this disinclination pointed to the desire for closer relations with France. From the very few words dropped on the subject by the Minister, I hardly think that this is the real interpretation of his attitude, which is probably due to a fear of identification with the Triple Alliance, while he may consider an understanding with England as sufficient support in the question of Morocco.

I shall probably have occasion to address your Lordship again on this subject. As the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo will, I believe, soon cease to be Foreign Minister, it is perhaps as well, except in cases of urgency, not to raise any organic questions with him, an opinion on which might bind his successor.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 154.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, February 16, 1893.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 11 I saw the Minister of State, to whom I communicated its contents. His Excellency expressed to me his satisfaction at the communication, and said that he now saw no objection to the fleet proceeding to Gibraltar, as its doing so could no longer be connected with the mission of Sir West Ridgeway.

No. 155.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, February 17, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have received answers to the letters which I sent to Cid Emfadl Gharneet at Fez announcing my arrival here, copies of which were furnished to your Lordship in my despatch No. 27 of the 3rd instant.

The replies contain the usual formulæ, and make no overtures of any kind.

No. 156.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 26.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 17, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 27 of the 3rd instant, inclosing copies of two notes which you addressed to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs upon your arrival at Tangier and your assumption of the charge of Her Majesty's Legation.

The terms of these notes are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 157.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 27.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 17, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 28 and 30 of the 6th instant, reporting that the Sultan has, in compliance with the request of Her Majesty's Government, addressed a reprimand to Hadj Mohammed Torres for his conduct in connection with the murder of the British subject Juan Trinidad.

Your proceedings in this matter, as well as the terms of the note which you have addressed to the Moorish Minister for Foreign Affairs expressing satisfaction at the final settlement of this case, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 158.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 34.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 11, 1893.

THE Sultan's Agent, Cid Mohammed Torres, called on me to-day to return the visit which I paid him on Monday last, and the conversation turned, among other topics, on the soldiers now imprisoned here in connection with the murder of Juan Trinidad. Cid Torres had previously broached this question himself to Mr. de Vismes in an interview which that gentleman had with him, and I therefore took this opportunity of informing him that from the point of view of Her Majesty's Legation it was necessary to keep in prison only one man, viz., the soldier who had fired the fatal shot, and that I had no objection to the release of the other two. I added that it was understood that the criminal would not be released without previous notice to Her Majesty's Legation, and that I proposed to address him to this effect.

Cid Mohammed Torres readily assented to this, and I have accordingly addressed to him the note of which I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Sir West Ridgeway to Hadj Mohammed Torres.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, February 13, 1893.

WITH reference to your Excellency's letter to Mr. Eliot of the 22nd Jumad II, and to letters received subsequently at this Legation from the Shereefian Court, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that I understand that the Moorish guard who fired at and killed the British subject Juan Trinidad is in prison, and will, of course, not be released without first consulting the British Representative in Morocco.

You have stated that two other guards who were with the person in question at the time that he committed the deed are also in custody. As it appears that there is no evidence of their having taken part in the murder of the British subject in question, I hasten to say to your Excellency that in my opinion the requirements of justice will be satisfied by the punishment of the guilty party, and that as far as Her Majesty's Legation is concerned there is no objection to the release of the other two men.

Peace.

No. 159.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 22, 6 P.M.)

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Tangier, February 22, 1893, 2.25 P.M.

REPLY to letter inclosed in your Lordship's despatch, Treaty, of the 1st February, has been received from Fez. This reply, which was written after receipt of my letter of the 6th February, is exceptionally cordial in its terms.

No. 160.

M. Waddington to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 23.)

M. le Comte,

Londres, le 21 Février, 1893.

LE Secrétaire de la "North-West African Company" à Londres (132, Cheap-side, E.C.), s'est adressé à mon Ambassade à l'effet d'obtenir le remboursement de dépenses qu'aurait effectuées l'agent de cette Société au Cap Juby dans l'intérêt d'un Français, le nommé Marte (Ernest), déserteur d'un corps stationné au Sénégal.

Le Consul de France à Sainte-Croix de Ténériffe, M. Laurent, auquel un rapport sur cette affaire avait été demandé, vient de faire savoir au Département des Affaires Étrangères que l'intéressé conteste qu'une rançon ait été payée à son profit, et il ajoute que la réclamation de la Société n'est d'ailleurs appuyée d'aucune pièce justificative. Le Consul d'Angleterre à Sainte-Croix qui avait entretenu officieusement M. Laurent de cette affaire, a reconnu, après échange d'explications, qu'il n'y avait pas lieu d'en saisir officiellement notre Agent, et déclaré qu'il ne croyait pas davantage devoir en référer au Gouvernement Britannique.

Dans ces conditions, M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères estime que la demande d'indemnité qui nous a été adressée n'a pas lieu d'être accueillie. Le Gouvernement Français serait disposé toutefois à rembourser le prix du vêtement donné au Sieur Marte par l'agence du Cap Juby, ainsi que les frais de son séjour à la factorerie et de son passage sur le "Sahara," bien que le Consul d'Angleterre, à qui cette offre a déjà été faite par M. Laurent, ait répondu que les frais en question étaient trop insignifiants pour ne pas être considérés comme un acte de charité.

Je serai reconnaissant à votre Seigneurie de vouloir bien porter les faits que je viens de lui exposer à la connaissance de la "North-West African Company."

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) WADDINGTON.

No. 161.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 29.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 23, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 34 of the 11th instant, respecting the Moorish guards imprisoned in connection with the murder of Juan Trinidad.

The note which you have addressed to Cid Mohammed Torres on this subject is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 162.

The Earl of Rosebery to M. Waddington.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, February 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 21st instant, in regard to a deserter from a French corps in Senegal, who is alleged to

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have been ransomed from the natives by the North-West African Company at Cape Juby.

In accordance with your wish, I have informed the Company of the contents of your Excellency's communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 163.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 25, 1893.*
WITH reference to your letters of the 4th August and 28th October last, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to request you to inform the Directors of the North-West African Company that his Lordship has received the following communication from the French Government in regard to the deserter, Ernest Marte, who is said to have been ransomed from the natives for the sum of 25*l.* by the Company's agent at Cape Juby.

It appears that M. Laurent, the French Consul at Sainte-Croix de Ténériffe, has reported that Marte denies that any ransom was paid on his account. M. Laurent has also stated that the Company's claim to be reimbursed the amount in question is unsupported by any documentary proof, and that the British Consular officer at Sainte-Croix had under the circumstances decided not to take up the case officially or to report the matter to Her Majesty's Government.

The French Government therefore decline to take into their consideration the application made by the North-West African Company; at the same time they are prepared to reimburse the Company the value of the coat with which Marte was supplied by their agent, as well as the expenses of his stay at their station, and of his subsequent passage on board the "Sahara."

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 164.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 57. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Madrid, February 16, 1893.*
YESTERDAY the Italian Ambassador called on me, and after explaining occupations which had recently absorbed much of his time, he proceeded to relate to me a conversation with the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo.

In conformity with instructions from his Government—and, he added, with his own feelings—the Marquis de Maffei had urged on the Spanish Minister the great advantages to be obtained by the firm co-operation of Spain with England in the affairs of Morocco, and in a secondary degree with Italy. He pointed out that in such an agreement the Mediterranean would be prevented from becoming a French lake, and that the assistance of England would be of especial help to Spain against the encroachments of France.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed his regret at having alluded to Gibraltar in his conversation with Sir West Ridgeway, and manifested his wish to act in conjunction both with England and Italy. He then proceeded to ask whether the Marquis de Maffei was quite satisfied that England had no designs on Tangier. The Ambassador inquired how his Excellency could entertain such an idea at the time when England had instructed her new Envoy to Morocco to take Madrid on his road and to explain frankly to the Spanish Government the object of his mission. Besides, he added, England is not likely to commit an act which might bring on a general war. To this the Minister replied that he did not think a war would be the result. If England were to take Tangier by a *coup de main*, other nations would accept this act as an accomplished fact. In short, his Excellency said that he clearly perceived England must, sooner or later, take possession of Tangier. She would then

command the whole Straits, and extend her dominion as she thought best throughout Morocco. Things would be different, his Excellency added, if in so doing there were any chance of England relinquishing Gibraltar. In other respects the conversation was, the Ambassador said, satisfactory, as the Spanish Minister showed great mistrust of France, and a desire for the friendship of England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 165.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February 20, 1893.*
CAPTAIN BEWICKE COPLEY, of the Head-quarters' Staff in Ireland, attached to my Special Mission, is obliged to return home to his military duty in March.

I have accordingly the honour to request that, should the military authorities see no objection, he may be replaced by Count Gleichen, of the Grenadier Guards, who desires to join my staff.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 166.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February 20, 1893.*
IT is generally believed that the Sultan will leave Fez in April, if not before, to start on an expedition in the direction of Taflelt, and I think there can be little doubt that His Majesty contemplates moving from his present residence about that time. It is, however, doubtful whether Taflelt is his real destination, as it is the habit of the Court to spread false reports about his movements. I hear from one source that he will probably go as far as Ait Atla, and then turn off to Morocco; while Kaïd Maclean, who is likely to have trustworthy information on such topics, says that the rumour about Taflelt has only been spread to put the Azemoor tribe off their guard. The Sultan, he says, is going to Azemoor round by Ait Ussu and Beni M'giled, and thence to Mequinez, to marry one of his sons. After that he returns to Fez for the winter, and if all is well, goes to Morocco next year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 167.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord, *Tangier, February 20, 1893.*
THE question has recently been raised whether the "Conseil Sanitaire" of Tangier, composed of the foreign Representatives, has the right to impose fines upon, or otherwise punish, those who disobey its orders. The point was raised by the conduct of the captain of a Spanish steamer who landed, irregularly, certain passengers who did not appear on the ship's papers. As the Sanitary Council has charge of all matters relating to maritime police, the matter was referred to them, and subsequently led to a discussion of the general principle involved. At first it was proposed that offenders against the orders of the Council should be handed over to their respective Consular officers, to receive from these latter the punishment prescribed by the laws of their country for the offence committed. But this was felt by some of the Ministers to be unsatisfactory, as it would inevitably bring about the result that persons of different nationalities would receive very different punishments for the same offence. It was then suggested that the Council should itself fix and inflict the various penalties, and the

majority of my colleagues seemed to find nothing objectionable in this. The German Minister and myself were, however, of opinion that, if not legally impossible, it was most undesirable from a political point of view for the Council to exercise direct jurisdiction over the subjects of the various Powers. The force of this objection was admitted, and it was finally agreed that the Council should draw up a list of the penalties to be imposed for offences against the rules laid down by it, that the Representatives should communicate this list to their respective Governments, and that when the penalties should be approved by the said Governments, they should be communicated to the competent Consular authorities for their guidance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 168.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 39.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 21, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of Cid Emfadi Gharneet's reply to the letter forwarded to his Excellency through me in your Lordship's despatch, marked Treaty, of the 1st instant. I also inclose the original letter addressed to your Lordship.

This communication is, as your Lordship will observe, exceptionally friendly in its terms. Your Lordship's letter must have been received by Cid Emfadi Gharneet a few days after the receipt of my letter of the 6th instant, a copy of which I had the honour to transmit in my despatch No. 30 of that date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 168.

Cid Emfadi Gharneet to the Earl of Rosebery.

(Translation.)

TO our friend, the sagacious, him of penetrating intellect, the Vizir for Foreign Affairs of the great English Government, the exalted, the honoured, the respected, the esteemed cavalier, Lord Rosebery.

After much inquiry as to your health, hoping that you may be well for ever, I have received your letter, saying that your exalted Queen had been pleased to appoint Sir Joseph West Ridgeway as Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary on a special mission to His Shereefian Majesty (whom may God exalt), and you asked that I should be attentive to him and treat him with consideration and deference. And you expressed the conviction that I shared with you the greatest desire to promote good relations between the two Governments, and that I would give due weight to the communications which it would be the duty of the aforesaid Envoy to make to me, and that I would do what is in my power to enable him to carry out his mission in a manner which would be approved by the two friendly Governments, and that in this assurance you felt great satisfaction.

I have brought your letter to the knowledge of the Sultan, and His Majesty has taken cognizance of its purport, and has commanded me to answer you by assuring you that the aforesaid Envoy of the friendly Government is welcome, because he is a friend from a friend to a friend, and to say that he will be regarded by His Majesty with the eye of consideration, respect, and attention, and will be treated, please God, as a friend who comes from friends to friends. You say that you are convinced that I share with you the aforesaid desire. This is so. I am indeed with you in the desire to promote friendly relations between the two Governments. And how should it be otherwise? For this is an agreeable pursuit (or a pursuit in which there is reward), and it is the object of our greatest hope, and the goal of our desires and petitions. And it is to me pleasure and happiness to use my endeavours in promoting good relations between the two Governments, and to pursue everything which may

strengthen their bonds of friendship and amity, and make their unity permanent, and also to co-operate with the said Envoy in that which may afford satisfaction to the two friendly countries, and draw them closer together. Therefore welcome, welcome to the Envoy in the dominions of our lord the victorious. May you remain in joy, gladness, and good health, looked up to with the eye of consideration and respect.

Finished the 26th Rejeb, 1310 (corresponding to the 14th February, 1893).

No. 169.

Foreign Office to War Office.

Foreign Office, March 2, 1893.

Sir,

WITH reference to my letter of the 23rd January, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch from Sir W. Ridgeway,* at present at Tangier on a Special Mission to the Court of Morocco, requesting that Count Gleichen, of the Grenadier Guards, may be attached to his Staff in place of Captain Bewicke-Copley, about to return to his military duties in Ireland.

I am to request that you will move Mr. Secretary Campbell-Bannerman to inform Lord Rosebery what answer should be returned to this application.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 170.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 59. Most Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 17, 1893.

I HAVE just met the Italian Ambassador, who informed me that since we had previously spoken he had seen Señor Jimenez, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who held to him language similar to that of the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo.

Señor Jimenez said that there could be no doubt England, was bent on appropriating Tangier, and sooner or later she would carry out this project.

He admitted it was necessary to be on the best terms with England for fear France should endeavour to obtain territory in the interior. If she did so, England would have a fair justification for seizing Tangier.

The Ambassador dwelt on the expediency of keeping on the best terms with England and Italy. The policy of these three Powers was to secure the freedom of the Mediterranean, and for this purpose to induce the Sultan to maintain an orderly Government so as to take away from France any pretext for encroachment. His Excellency begged Señor Jimenez not to nourish the notions he had expressed at a time when the British Envoy had been sent through Madrid on purpose to remove doubts from the mind of the Spanish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 171.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord,

Madrid, February 17, 1893.

AS I was calling yesterday concerning other matters on the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo, I communicated to his Excellency the contents of your Lordship's telegram No. 11 of the 15th instant.

* No. 145

His Excellency replied that the cause for his misgivings on a former occasion had quite passed away. He had then thought that the arrival of the Channel Squadron at Gibraltar might cause some excitement as coinciding with the mission of Sir West Ridgeway, his visit to Madrid, and the discussions which were then agitating the public mind in Spain; but this anxiety had only been transitory, and his Excellency saw no reasons why Her Majesty's ships should not resume their usual customs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 172.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 22, 1893.

REPORTS are current in Tangier respecting disturbances in Wazan, which are probably somewhat exaggerated. I have not been able to ascertain the exact facts at first hand, but have received the following information from the French Legation, who said they had it from a courier who arrived last night direct from Wazan:—

The tribe of Beni M'Sara, who have long been on bad terms with the inhabitants of the city, thought that the departure of the new Shereef on a visit to Fez offered them a favourable opportunity for attacking the town. They therefore entered it *en masse* and armed, which is forbidden by law, but were opposed by the inhabitants, under the command of the son of the Shereef, a youth of 16. A fight ensued, in which the M'Sari were repulsed with a loss of thirty men. On the other side four were killed.

The French Legation believe that the serious character now assumed by such disturbances is mainly due to certain German firms who have sold arms to the natives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 173.

North-West African Company to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 6.)

My Lord,

132, Cheapside, London, March 3, 1893.

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 25th ultimo, containing the reply of the French authorities to our request for the reimbursement of moneys paid by the Company for the ransom of Ernest Marte, a Frenchman now employed as interpreter at Senegal by the French Government.

The Directors, on the assurance of one of their colleagues who visited Cape Juby in November last, and who examined into the whole circumstances of the case, assure your Lordship that the statement made by their staff is absolutely true, and they are sorry to trouble your Lordship with such a small matter, but it has an important phase, viz., that the Directors will be reluctantly compelled, by the attitude of the French Government, to instruct their Managers and the Sheikhs that no negotiations of any kind for the release of French subjects shall for the future be entered upon at Cape Juby.

The Directors beg to decline to receive from the French Government any payment for clothing and sustenance supplied to Marte by the Company or their staff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) The North-West African Company (Limited),
GEO. RAYNOR, Secretary.

No. 174.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 7.)

(No. 42. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of a despatch and of an extract from a private letter of the British Vice-Consul at Fez, respecting the rumoured advance of French troops on Figuig.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 174.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Fez, February 23, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that for five or six days past there have been rumours current here of the appearance of bodies of French troops on the Morocco-Algerian frontier.

Last evening an express courier arrived from the Province of Figuig, and brought the news that, after some fighting, several tribes of Algerian Arabs had fled across the frontier and taken refuge with the people of Figuig, and were trying to pass further into Morocco.

The Figuig people, however, would not allow the fugitives to pass further in, and sent the express courier to ask for instructions—whether they were to be handed back to the French, or the latter to be allowed to pursue them, or allowed to proceed further into Morocco.

There were five bodies of French troops—

One at Chellala Dabrania,
One at Ain Sefra,
One at Ommegrar-el-Gueblia, or Karbia,
One at Teinet-el-Bieda,
One at Dirmil.

This last place is not on my Map (Wyld's), but my informant says it is between Chellala Dabrania and Ain Sefra.

I inquired particularly whether it was not Thiout, and not Teinet-el-Bieda, which was meant, but my informant was sure it was the latter, because the messenger who came here described the French troops (one party of them) as being within an hour or two's march only of the Moroccan boundary.

The courier who arrived yesterday had taken seven days to come from Figuig.

The above information, being purely from native sources, may not be perfectly correct in detail, but I believe the main facts are to be relied upon.

The Sultan is said to have written to the French Legation, and to be awaiting Count d'Aubigny's reply before taking any steps or giving instructions to the Figuig authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 174.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

Fez, February 23, 1893.

ONE of our couriers is a Figuig man, and knows that country well, and his brother is the brother-in-law of the courier who arrived here yesterday evening with letters to the Sultan from the authorities at Figuig. On the courier's arriving here he went to his brother-in-law's house, rested a little, gave them the news, and then went up to the Court with his letters. He has been kept close hold of at the Court, I am told, so that it was fortunate we got the news before he went up.

No. 175.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 4. Consular.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of two despatches which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Fez respecting the recognition of his official position by the Moorish authorities.

In reply to the first, I have approved the action of Mr. Macleod, but intimated at the same time that it is unnecessary for him to take any further steps at present to assert his position, and undesirable to hold any further communication with Mr. Rizzo on the subject. I do not consider the present moment opportune for raising the question with the Sultan.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 175.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Fez, February 16, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Mr. Philip Rizzo called upon me to-day with a letter of introduction from Colonel Mathews (personal), which informed me that Mr. Rizzo had been appointed Consular Agent in Fez for Portugal and the United States of America.

Mr. Rizzo informed me that the Moorish Government had received him very uncivilly, that they had refused to assist him to get a house hitherto, and declined entirely to acknowledge him as Consular Agent either for the United States or for Portugal.

Mr. Rizzo asked the Vizir Cid Emfadl Gharneet how it was that the Moorish Government recognized a British Vice-Consul, and a French Consular Agent here, and declined to admit of an American or Portuguese Agent.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet replied that the Moorish Government did not recognize or accept any European resident Representative except in the seaports, and in particular had never recognized or accepted the British Vice-Consul.

Mr. Rizzo asked me for information as to the exactness of that statement, and I told him that the French Consular Agent had been conducting French Affairs here for many years without protest or objection being raised; and that the Moorish Government did not now formally, nor had it ever face to face with me, denied my position.

Further, I said, I handed and received occasionally letters between the Court and the British Legation, and the local authorities sent to me when any question arose about any British subject or protégé. So that their representation of not recognizing me was misleading.

At the same time I would point out to your Excellency that Cid Emfadl Gharneet and the late Basha of Fez persistently alleged last summer that I was not British Vice-Consul here, and in conversation the Vizir does not address me "Consul" as the Moorish custom is, but "Tajer."

However, so long as this was all the length he went, and as the public here know the facts in spite of the Court's misleading, I have never complained, feeling that time and patience may smooth such matters, or at any rate carry them on until a suitable time arrives for adjustment.

I should be glad to have your Excellency's instructions on the matter, and to know if I am to afford Mr. Rizzo any further information or co-operative help.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 175.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Fez, February 18, 1893.

IN confirmation of my despatch of the 16th instant, when I had the honour of reporting to your Excellency the refusal of the Moorish Government to recognize Mr. Philip Rizzo as Consular Agent of the United States and Portugal in this capital, I beg now to add the following particulars as to what occurred on my appointment as British Vice-Consul:—

In pursuance of instructions from Sir Charles Euan-Smith, directly I received my letter of authority I wrote to the different Vizirs and to the Basha of Fez informing them of my appointment, and adding that I would be glad to call upon them. The same evening the Basha sent two of his soldiers with his compliments, and to say that he had received my letter, and would be glad to see me next morning at 10 o'clock.

The following morning at that hour the Basha sent four of his principal soldiers to escort me to his house, where he received me with every expression of welcome, and hoped that we would always get on well together, and so forth.

Not a word was said by him about non-recognition, or anything of that tenour, but the very reverse.

A few weeks subsequently the Basha sent to me asking whether a certain Moor had, or had not, British protection; and later on still he asked me to furnish him with a list of British subjects, protégés, and employés here, with a view to the avoidance of disputes, and to arriving at a clear understanding.

It would surely have been impossible for him to ask such a list from a person whose authority to give it the Basha did not admit.

A few days after receiving my appointment I saw Cid Emfadl Gharneet, who also made no sort of protest, but, on the contrary, asked good-humouredly how I liked being Vice-Consul, &c.

Both the deceased Basha and the present Khalifa of Fez have frequently referred questions against British protégés to me.

The French Minister, Count d'Aubigny (and the French Consular Agent), received and returned my official visits during his stay in Fez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

No. 176.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 46.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 3, 1893.

M. CANTAGALLI, the Italian Minister, recently drew my attention to the increasing scarcity of grain at Tangier, amounting almost to a menace of famine. The flour imported from European ports is cheap, bad, and unwholesome, and experience has shown that it is liable to become the cause of serious epidemics. M. Cantagalli accordingly invited me to join him in a representation to the Sultan, praying His Majesty to facilitate the import of grain from the western coast of Tangier.

I was not sure, on reflection, whether M. Cantagalli referred merely to the importation of corn for Legations or to free "cabotage" of grain. I therefore wrote to him, putting this question directly, and have the honour to inclose herewith his answer to the effect that his object was to facilitate the importation of grain for the general good.

Sir John Hay informs me that the Sultan more than once removed the duty on the coast trade in grain, while he was Minister, at a time when Tangier was similarly menaced with famine; and it would appear that, when Sir C. Euan-Smith discussed the question of "cabotage," His Shereefian Majesty said that it was his regular practice to remit the duties if grain became scarce or dear.

Although at this juncture I would much prefer not to ask the Sultan to grant anything which he might regard as a favour, yet on grounds of humanity I think, subject to your Lordship's approval, that I should join in a representation to His Majesty in the sense desired by M. Cantagalli, that is to say, praying him to follow the

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procedure formerly adopted by him on similar occasions. I consider it, however, necessary that such a representation should be made, not merely by Her Majesty's Legation and that of Italy, but by a majority, at least, of the Corps Diplomatique. There would, I think, be little difficulty in obtaining the support of the Representatives of Belgium, Portugal, and the United States; and, if Count d'Aubigny were likewise prepared to join, I should propose to do so myself.

I would solicit your Lordship's instructions by telegraph, as it is very desirable to come to an early decision on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 176.

M. Cantagalli to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Confidential.)

My dear Sir West,

Tangier, March 3, 1893.

I WOULD have come myself, but that I find all my horses are out.

The question at issue is the following: To obtain from the Sultan, for a limited time, say six months, the permission of shipping from the coast ports wheat and barley to the ports of Tangier and Tetuan. Under the present arrangement, concluded with the German Legation nearly three years ago, the exports are permitted of those cereals, subject to certain duties, and the carrying of grain to Tangier is considered as paramount to exportation to the ports of Europe. This makes the cost of grain in the two provinces of Tangier and Tetuan, which do not produce enough for consumption, very dear indeed. We ought to ask, then, for a permission to introduce grain here by "cabotage," as was granted many times before. I fear that unless we obtain that, and owing to certain speculations, we may suffer here from all the consequences of a famine, the signs of which are already visible. The measure would also be directed to prevent the importation of bad flour, very injurious to the public health. It is not then for the use of the Legations, but of the whole public, that we ought to ask the permission aforesaid, and if we can do it all of one accord, so much the better.

Many thanks for your kind letter of yesterday.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) R. CANTAGALLI.

No. 177.

The Earl of Rosebery to M. Waddington.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, March 8, 1893.

WITH reference to my note of the 25th ultimo, respecting the moneys paid by the North-West African Company for the ransom of Ernest Marte, I am assured by the Directors of the Company, to whom I communicated the contents of your Excellency's note of the 21st ultimo, that they can vouch for the truth of the statements made by their staff, as the matter was thoroughly investigated by one of their colleagues who visited Cape Juby in November last.

The Directors add that they beg leave to decline to receive any payment for clothing and sustenance supplied to Marte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 178.

War Office to Foreign Office.—(Received March 9.)

Sir,

War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., March 7, 1893.

IN reply to your letter of the 2nd instant, and in reference to your letter of the 23rd January last, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to inform you that Mr. Campbell-Bannerman has no objection to Captain Count Gleichen, 2nd Battalion

Grenadier Guards, being granted leave for four months for the purpose of proceeding to Morocco, to be attached to the Staff of Sir West Ridgeway, K.C.B., who is on a Special Mission to the Court of Morocco, in place of Captain Bewicke-Copley, Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General, Dublin, who was granted leave of absence for sixty-one days, from the 18th January.

I am, &c.
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

No. 179.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir W. Ridgeway.

(No. 11.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, March 9, 1893.

YOU may join in the representation respecting the import of grain referred to in your despatch No. 46 of the 3rd instant, provided it is made by the French Minister, as well as all the other foreign Representatives.

No. 180.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 3. Consular.)

Tangier, February 23, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a correspondence with Mr. Fernau, British Vice-Consul at Dar-al-Baida, regarding some premises at that place the title to which is disputed.

In the first place, I would refer your Lordship to the correspondence ending with Mr. White's despatch No. 58 of the 23rd July, 1891, from which it will be observed that the premises in question have already been the subject of a troublesome discussion with the Italian Government. The matter was at last settled by a compromise arranged by Mr. White and M. Cantagalli, according to which the Italian Consulate was not to take possession of the premises until the 31st December last, when the lease of Messrs. Murdoch, Butler, and Hunter would expire. Accordingly on that date Messrs. Murdoch and Co. vacated the premises, and the seals of the Italian Vice-Consulate were affixed to the doors.

Notwithstanding these facts, Messrs. Lamb, Brothers, of Dar-al-Baida, proceeded to rent his premises from the former owner, and, at their instance, Mr. Fernau, who is, I understand, a near relation of Mr. Lamb, called upon the Italian Vice-Consul to remove his seals. This request being refused, Mr. Fernau affixed the seals of the British Vice-Consulate to the doors.

The justification for this arbitrary proceeding appears to have been a statement by Messrs. Lamb and Co. that the Shereefian letters had not, as alleged by the Italian Government, conferred the premises on their Consulate.

On receipt of Mr. Fernau's letter, I immediately addressed to him the letter of which I inclose a copy, ordering him at once to remove the seals.

The next morning the Italian Minister asked for an interview, and was much gratified to hear of the decision at which I had arrived. He said that he was thus relieved of a serious difficulty, and would report to his Government "the loyalty and courtesy" with which he had been treated by me. M. Cantagalli then produced translations of the Shereefian letters, from which it appears that the Sultan categorically and unmistakably granted the premises to the Italian Consulate.

Your Lordship will observe that Mr. Fernau's extraordinary proceedings might have caused a serious misunderstanding, especially if he had been dealing with the Representative of a less friendly Government. Indeed, his conduct has been such as to awaken in my mind grave doubts as to his fitness for the post.

I am sorry to trouble your Lordship at such length in this matter, but it may prove to be the subject of correspondence with the Italian Government, and it is therefore necessary that your Lordship should be acquainted with all the facts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Vice-Consul Fernau to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Dar-el-Baida, February 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of two letters, dated the 16th and 18th instant, addressed to me by Messrs. Lamb, Brothers, of this town, referring to the stores of Kaïd Mohammed Abdallah Ben Said, Governor of Sallee, in connection with which, during the month of October 1890, a serious breach of Consular etiquette was committed by the Interpreter of the Italian Legation, who forcibly, and without giving any notice to the British Vice-Consul, entered the premises then in the occupation of Messrs. Murdoch, Butler, and Co., the chief of which firm was also British Vice-Consul at the time.

I forwarded a copy of Messrs. Lamb, Brothers' letter of the 16th instant to the acting Italian Consular Agent, with the request that he should have the Italian seals removed from the doors of the stores. To this he replied that the stores had been ceded to the Italian Government by His Shereefian Majesty, and that he had affixed the seals by order of the Italian Legation, and could not remove them without instructions.

In compliance with Messrs. Lamb, Brothers' request contained in their letter of this date, and in order to protect British interests, I have affixed the seals of this Vice-Consulate to the doors of the stores pending your Excellency's instructions.

I have personally investigated this matter, and find that Messrs. Lamb, Brothers' statements are absolutely correct. The contents of the Shereefian letter have been communicated to me privately, and are exactly as stated, thus disproving the assertion of the Italian Consular Agent that the premises have been ceded to the Italian Government.

There appears to be no doubt that this is an attempt on the part of the Italian Consular Agent to appropriate the property of a Moorish subject on the plea of a grant for Consular premises, which is quite inadmissible, as Consular premises must necessarily be residential only.

As your Excellency will observe, the rent for the premises has already been paid to the owner for one year in advance; the contract dates from the 1st instant, and I venture to hope that your Excellency will use your influence to enable Messrs. Lamb, Brothers, to take possession of the stores.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. H. FERNAU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Messrs. Lamb, Brothers, to Vice-Consul Fernau.

Sir,

Casablanca, February 16, 1893.

WE beg to inform you that we have rented the stores situated opposite the French Consulate, the property of Cid Mohammed Abdallah Ben Said, Governor of Sallee, and hold in our possession the keys and a duly executed contract for one year, the rent of which we have duly prepaid.

On going to take possession we found that the Italian Consul had placed his seal upon the doors; whereupon it appeared to us that we had better not enter the premises without previously consulting you.

We are prepared to furnish you with incontestable proofs that the Italian Consul has no right whatever to the premises; he has, we acknowledge, obtained the somewhat extraordinary privilege of being allowed to build an upper story on the top of the building in question, but the Shereefian letter conferring upon him this privilege, dated Safar 22, 1307, of the Mahommedan Calendar, clearly states that the original property (which we have now rented) is to remain in the possession of its legitimate owner.

We therefore beg that you will take such steps as you may deem fitting for the protection of our interests in this matter.

We inclose contracts for your inspection, and remain, &c.
(Signed) LAMB, BROS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 180.

Messrs. Lamb, Brothers, to Vice-Consul Fernau.

Sir,

Casablanca, February 18, 1893.

WITH reference to our conversation of this morning in the matter of the stores, may we suggest to you the desirability of your placing the Consular seals on the doors of the stores for the better protection of our interests, *lite pendente*?

As you have been unable to obtain any redress, we beg that you will forward the case to Tangier, and solicit the good offices of Her Majesty's Minister.

We remain, &c.
(Signed) LAMB, BROS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 180.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Fernau.

Sir,

Tangier, February 22, 1893.

I HAVE carefully considered your despatch of the 18th instant, and have been forced to the conclusion that your action in affixing the seals of the Vice-Consulate to the stores in question was unauthorized and irregular, and that consequently they must be at once removed.

You do not appear to be aware of the gravity of this operation of sealing up premises or property with your official seal. It amounts to claiming temporary possession in the name of the Government until you are able to hand over the property to the right owner. Hence seals should never be affixed unless you are certain of your right to so claim and dispose of the property sealed.

After the 31st December last there was no further question between the two Governments. The Italian Government did not immediately occupy the stores, but their claims to them were well known. Consequently, any British subject taking them on a new contract must have been prepared for opposition. At present the question seems to rest between Mr. Lamb and the [? former] owner of the house, who has received his money but has not given him possession, and between the owner and the Italian Vice-Consulate or Legation. It would appear that the latter should either return the money already paid by Mr. Lamb, or take steps through the Kaïd, or proper Moorish authority, to obtain effective recognition of the transaction.

You, however, apparently thought that, having received private information, which amounts to saying that the facts of the case were represented inaccurately when it was first considered, you were justified in officially interfering in the matter as British Representative.

Your proper course, undoubtedly, was to report the information you had received, and, pending the receipt of instructions, abstain from all official interference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 181.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 41.)

My Lord,

Tangier, February 24, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Hamam, the celebrated leader of the Angeras, was this day captured and brought into Tangier, where he is now in prison.

According to the story current here he was found disguised as a woman, and defended himself with such bravery that before he was taken he succeeded in killing no less than nine soldiers who attempted to enter the room where he had been concealed.

He was brought into Tangier under circumstances of great indignity, being chained and stripped of his outer garments; but the report that he was tortured has not been confirmed. His fate is uncertain. Executions are rare in Morocco, though the Sultan occasionally sends a cup of poisoned tea to persons of whom he wishes to be rid, and in all probability Hamam will be sent to Fez, and imprisoned there permanently.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 44. Very Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 2, 1893.

M. ANSPACH, my Belgian colleague, called on me a few days ago, and quite confidentially and as a well-wisher of England asked me what my intentions were as regards the Shereefian Court.

I replied that my first duty was to ascertain facts and to report them to my Government, and that this necessarily would be a matter of time. He rejoined that a delay of two months or so would not much matter, but that it was most desirable, not only in the interests of Great Britain, but of all the Powers, that the British Government should take some action as soon as possible, for the Shereefian authorities, elated at what they supposed to be the recall of Sir Charles Euan-Smith, were now more impracticable than ever. He could not, he added, get the most trifling business attended to. M. Anspach did not consider that the recent breakdown of our negotiations was altogether responsible for this unfortunate state of things, but he said it had no doubt much aggravated matters. In the course of the conversation, after premising that I had not as yet formed any definite views and opinions, I remarked that the questions pending with the Shereefian Court seemed to come under two categories, namely, those affecting the British Government only, and those affecting the European Powers generally.

As regards the first category I anticipated no trouble. They were not of any great importance, and the recent letters from the Shereefian Court showed a very friendly spirit.

As regards the second category my predecessor had tried to negotiate a Treaty which would have benefited not England alone, but all the Powers interested, but if the reports which I found current in Tangier were true—and here I emphasized the confidential nature of my remarks—the French Legation, and perhaps even others, had not co-operated with Sir Charles Euan-Smith, but, on the contrary, had thwarted his negotiations.

M. Anspach, speaking quite confidentially, stated that there was no doubt about the truth of these reports. I then asked whether, if I too attempted to obtain commercial concessions for the benefit of the civilized world, the same measure would not be meted out to me by my colleagues. If that were the case—speaking for myself, and not knowing as yet the intentions of my Government—I was not inclined to plunge lightly into the negotiations in question. It seemed to me that our object could be best obtained by concert between the Powers interested.

M. Anspach readily agreed, but, he added, the concert must be arranged by the Cabinets, and orders must be given by them to the different Ministers to carry it into effect.

The conversation then turned on the Madrid Conference of 1880, of which M. Anspach, then Belgian Minister at Madrid, was a member. He attributed the failure of that Conference to the fact that all the members were ignorant of the subject with which they were dealing, it having been resolved at the origin of the Conference that none of the Ministers accredited to the Sultan was to take part in the proceeding. M. Anspach further stated that Señor Moret was responsible for the breakdown of the proposal made in 1887 for a new Conference. I expressed surprise at this, as Señor Moret had, I believed, initiated the idea of a second Conference. M. Anspach replied that this was true, but for some reason which was always inexplicable to him Señor Moret had backed out of his own proposal. With reference to this I should inform your Lordship that Señor Moret told me at Madrid that he had been, and was still, much in favour of a Conference; that he had practically, and with much trouble, brought the negotiations for the holding of a second Conference to a successful issue, but at that moment he had left the Foreign Office, and his successor, the Marquis Vega del Armijo, for reasons of his own, had dropped the proposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 45. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 2, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 28th ultimo Count Tattenbach, in the course of conversation, introduced the subject of the concession obtained by him from the Sultan in 1890, whereby the export of wheat and barley from Morocco is permitted.

It is generally supposed that this concession will expire in June next, and it is reported that the Sultan will refuse to renew it. Count Tattenbach, however, pointed out that though the concession was granted in May 1890, it did not come into force till the following January, and he asked my advice as to the course which should be taken. As a German firm had already asked Count Tattenbach for information on this subject, we agreed that he should address the Sultan to the effect that the inquiry had been made, and that he had replied to the German firm in question that, for the reason given above, the concession would not expire till January next. This will allow time for consideration as to the steps which should be taken for the renewal of the concession. Count Tattenbach gave me the Return a copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, which shows that the concession has been of considerable value as regards barley. I told Count Tattenbach that this fact was generally admitted, but he complained that, on the contrary, it had been represented by British Ministers that his Treaty was a dead letter, and that statements to that effect had appeared in our Blue Books. I cannot verify this assertion, and I think that the concession has undoubtedly been of great value to trade generally.

I am calling for Reports from the various Vice-Consulates, which will, I hope, show the extent to which British trade in particular has benefited.

Count Tattenbach referred to the visit which he supposed I should shortly make to Fez, and he suggested that I should take the opportunity to negotiate a renewal of his Treaty. This suggestion has some importance, as it seems to indicate an inclination on the part of the German Minister to co-operate in any future commercial negotiations with the Shereefian Court.

As Count Tattenbach appeared desirous, on general grounds, to know my plans and intentions, I replied in the sense of my remarks on the same subject to M. Anspach, which I have reported to your Lordship in my last preceding despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Exports of Wheat and Barley from Morocco in 1891 and 1892.

WHEAT.

Places of Exportation.	1891.		1892.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilog.	Fr.	Kilog.	Fr.	Kilog.	Fr.
Casablanca	806,900	121,000	1,016,952	203,380	1,823,852	324,380
Mogador	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mazagan	444,000	77,500	1,317,200	258,100	1,761,200	335,600
Rabat	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larache	5,000	750	..	..	5,000	750
Saffi	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	1,255,900	199,250	2,334,152	461,480	3,590,052	660,730

BARLEY.

Places of Exportation.	1891.		1892.		Total.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Kilog.	Fr.	Kilog.	Fr.	Kilog.	Fr.
Casablanca	27,504,000	3,817,600	34,037,637	3,063,415	61,541,637	6,881,015
Mogador	460,500	55,200	887,190	79,847	1,347,690	135,047
Mazagan	2,263,300	314,300	3,347,433	324,600	5,610,733	638,900
Rabat	..	..	..	..	..	..
Larache	500,000	65,000	356,272	58,685	856,272	123,685
Safi	4,894,000	610,500	7,225,458	701,050	12,119,458	1,311,550
Total	35,621,800	4,862,600	45,853,990	4,227,597	81,475,790	9,090,197

No. 184.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, March 13, 1893.

THE following telegram has been just received from the Spanish Minister at Tangier, and has been communicated to me by the Minister of State:—

"Some Moors have arrived here, who state that they met the Fez post courier, who told them that he had letters for the authorities at Tangier to inform them that much agitation had been caused at Fez by the news that the French had taken possession of Figuig.

"Steps will be taken to ascertain how far this report is correct, which, if true, would be important."

No. 185.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 28.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Madrid, March 13, 1893.

I HAVE just received a note from the Minister of State informing me that the Spanish Minister at Tangier telegraphs denying the truth of the rumour that the French had entered Figuig, which I reported in my telegram to your Lordship No. 27 of this morning.

No. 186.

Sir W. Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 20.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 14, 1893, 12:30 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram, No. 12, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to report that I am assured by the Sultan's Agent here that the report adverted to is unfounded. I have received letters from the British Vice-Consul at Fez, dated the 9th instant, which do not refer to the alleged occurrences in any way.

No. 187.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir W. Ridgeway.

(No. 34.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 14, 1893.

WITH reference to your despatch, No. 4, Consular, of the 2nd instant, I approve the instructions which you gave to Mr. Vice-Consul MacLeod as to his communications with M. Rizzo, and the recognition of his own official position.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 188.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 48.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 9, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 42 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, an extract from a further despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod.

I have, &c.

(For Sir West Ridgeway),

(Signed)

G. DE VISMES DE PONTHEIU.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Extract.)

Fez, March 4, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that there is a rumour current here, and apparently fairly credible, that the Algerian fugitives concerned in the recent fighting on the Morocco-Algerian frontier have taken refuge with Boohamana, of Figuig, a Shereef of great influence in that district.

The Algerian Kabyle in question is alleged to be the Mzānāt.

Detachments of French troops are reported to be at Ein-es-Shair, and close to Figuig, and at or near Tuat.

Boohamana is said to have written to the Sultan offering to fight the French troops should they press for the surrender of the fugitives by him.

The Sultan has, it is also alleged, answered, ordering Boohamana to do nothing in the meantime, as His Majesty will visit the district himself shortly.

No. 189.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 21.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, March 16, 1893, 12:30 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 11 of the 9th instant, I propose to join my colleagues in a representation to the Sultan respecting the coasting trade in grain, having ascertained that they will all join in it, with the exception, possibly, of the German Minister.

No. 190.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 36. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 44, Secret, of the 2nd instant, reporting the substance of a conversation with M. Anspach, your Belgian colleague, respecting the policy of this country towards Morocco; and I have to inform you that the language which you held on that occasion is approved.

As regards the observations made by M. Anspach relative to the failure of the negotiations initiated by the Sultan in 1887 for a new Conference at Madrid to consider the "right of protection," I have to call your attention to the Memorandum of the 29th February, 1892, upon this subject, which will be found in the printed archives of the British Legation at Tangier, and which contains a careful précis of the correspondence that took place on the occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 191.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 37.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 16, 1893.

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the language which you held to Count Tattenbach, as reported in your despatch No. 45, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, relative to the concession which he obtained from the Sultan of Morocco in 1890 authorizing the export of wheat and barley from that country.

Your action in calling for a Report on this subject from the British Vice-Consulates under your superintendence is also approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 192.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 83. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Madrid, March 17, 1893.

YESTERDAY, while calling on the Marquis de la Vega de Armijo, his Excellency told me that, although the news had been contradicted respecting the entrance of the French into Figuig, he was convinced that something was going on in that neighbourhood which he could not define. I find this vague kind of presentiment rather widely spread, and it is, I learn, prevalent not only here, but at Tangier.

The Minister seemed to consider it possible that the French Government, to make a diversion from internal troubles, might open out the question of Morocco. He added that Germany was also taking great interest in the affairs of that country. The German Ambassador had not alluded to it, but the Spanish Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin had called his Excellency's attention to the constant recurrence to Moorish affairs, which now marked the articles in German newspapers and reviews.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 193.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 21.)

(No. 5. Consular.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 15, 1893.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copies of a further correspondence with the British Vice-Consul at Fez, regarding applications made to him for assistance by a Mr. Rizzo, who is stated to have recently been appointed Portuguese and United States' Vice-Consul at that capital, and who alleges that the Moorish Government refused to recognize him in that capacity.

Mr. Rizzo is, I understand, a dismissed employé of the Spanish Legation with indifferent antecedents, and I have received no communication on his behalf from the Portuguese Minister or the Consul-General of the United States of America, who are said to have accredited him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 193.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Fez, February 18, 1893.

IN confirmation of my despatch of the 16th instant, when I had the honour of reporting to your Excellency the refusal of the Moorish Government to recognize Mr. Philip Rizzo as Consular Agent of the United States and Portugal in

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this capital, I beg now to add the following particulars as to what occurred on my appointment as British Vice-Consul :—

In pursuance of instructions from Sir Charles Euan-Smith, directly I received my letter of authority I wrote to the different Vizirs, and to the Basha of Fez, informing them of my appointment, and adding that I would be glad to call upon them. The same evening the Basha sent two of his soldiers with his compliments, and to say that he had received my letter, and would be glad to see me next morning at 10 o'clock.

The following morning at that hour the Basha sent four of his principal soldiers to escort me to his house, where he received me with every expression of welcome, and hoped that we would always get on well together, and so forth.

Not a word was said by him about non-recognition or anything of that tenour, but the very reverse.

A few weeks subsequently the Basha sent to me asking whether a certain Moor had or had not British protection; and later on still he asked me to furnish him with a list of British subjects, protégés, and employés here, with a view to the avoidance of disputes, and to arriving at a clear understanding.

It would surely have been impossible for him to ask such a list from a person whose authority to give it the Basha did not admit.

A few days after receiving my appointment I saw Cid Emfadi Gharneet, who also made no sort of protest, but, on the contrary, asked good-humouredly how I liked being Vice-Consul, &c.

Both the deceased Basha and the present Khalifa of Fez have frequently referred questions against British protégés to me.

The French Minister, Count d'Aubigny (and the French Consular Agent) received and returned my official visits during his stay in Fez.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 193.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Private.)

Sir,

Fez, February 18, 1893

I SEND your Excellency the accompanying despatch, not because I think Cid Emfadi Gharneet is serious in what he says about this Vice-Consulate, but only that you may have the facts before you, in case Senhor Colaço or Colonel Mathews may, as a result of Mr. Rizzo's reports to them, refer to your Excellency on the matter for information.

Naturally the Court don't like it to be known amongst their people that they recognize Consuls here, as they are afraid of them getting protection, and as I am continually, as it is, troubled with people coming to me asking for protection, I can quite understand their motive.

And so I did not pay much attention to remarks which I have often heard they made behind my back, knowing also that on a serious complaint being made Gharneet would, as usual, blandly deny having made them.

It certainly seems a most extraordinary contention to make that no Consular officials are admissible except at seaports.

They said the same thing twelve months ago about post-offices, and threatened people who would work at ours with severe punishment, going so far as to imprison one of our couriers.

Gradually of course they abandoned that contention, and the French as well as our service goes on without hindrance; but the noise they made over the post-office, and the talk it created in the town, were much greater than what is occurring now over Mr. Rizzo's affair, or even the institution of this Vice-Consulate, excepting of course the flag affair. Trusting this reaches your Excellency and your family in good health, I am, &c.

(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

P.S. February 20. — Mr. Rizzo saw Gharneet again on Saturday, and the latter still put off giving him a house. Mr. Rizzo states that Gharneet said to him, "I suppose if you got a house you would hoist a flag next." To which Mr. Rizzo replied that he should require the house first, and thereafter they might talk over the recognition and flag question.

J. M. M.

Inclosure 3 in No. 193.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Tangier, February 23, 1893.
 Sir, I HAVE received your despatch of the 16th instant, and approve of the language you held to Mr. Rizzo respecting your position as Vice-Consul. It is desirable that you should abstain as far as possible from any further communication on the subject with that gentleman, and it is not necessary that you should take any further steps to assert your position at present.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 193.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Fez, March 7, 1893.
 Sir, I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that yesterday Mr. Rizzo, United States' and Portuguese Consular Agent, called here. He stated that the Moorish Government still maintained the same attitude towards him, and that he was still lodged in the same house of one room with several other persons, and living in the greatest discomfort.

He said further that a certain Moor was willing to let him a house on condition that I would in the meantime take him under my protection.

I declined to do this, whereupon Mr. Rizzo said that there was a dwelling which might be got from a Portuguese protégé, but that the Taleb of this Vice-Consulate and another Moor had the larger shares in it, and the Taleb would not hire it without my ordering him to do so.

I answered that I could not force the Taleb to acquiesce, but would not object to anything he might arrange with Mr. Rizzo.

Under existing circumstances the Taleb will not agree, and as Mr. Rizzo's quarrel with the Moorish Government is so acute, I will not, unless your Excellency instructs me to the contrary, identify myself with his affairs, particularly in such a matter of irritation as the letting of a house is in this place.

With reference to my despatch concerning the delivery of certain pamphlets to the Court, a messenger came here this morning from Si Hamaad Ben Moosa, Chamberlain, to say that my Hebrew employé was a man well known to them, might he long work with me, &c. In fact, the message was a roundabout apology for having talked to the man in the way they did a few days ago. I was somewhat surprised, and agreeably so, to receive the message, as I had made no sort of complaint, either direct or otherwise, on the subject.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 5 in No. 193.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Tangier, March 15, 1893.
 Sir, I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatches of the 18th ultimo and 7th instant. With reference to the latter, I approve your attitude in regard to Mr. Rizzo.

You have rightly judged that it is undesirable that you should in any way interfere between the newly-appointed Portuguese and United States' Vice-Consul and the Shereefian Court.

You should not undertake, directly or indirectly, to assist Mr. Rizzo in finding a house.

The duties and responsibilities devolving upon you in connection with British interests are quite sufficient to occupy your time and attention.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 194.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir W. Ridgeway.

(No. 40.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 24, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 5, Consular, of the 15th instant, and approve the instructions which you have addressed to Vice-Consul McLeod at Fez, desiring him to take no further steps at present to assert his own position as Vice-Consul, and warning him not to interfere in the matter of M. Rizzo's appointment as Portuguese and United States' Vice-Consul.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 195.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir W. Ridgeway.

(No. 41.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 24, 1893.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 3, Consular, of the 23rd ultimo, forwarding and commenting upon a correspondence which has taken place between yourself and Vice-Consul Fernau as to his recent proceedings in connection with certain stores at Dar-el-Baida, of which the ownership is in dispute.

Upon a reference to the previous history of this case, I observe that under the terms of the settlement effected between Mr. White and Signor Cantagalli on the 22nd July, 1891, and formally approved by Her Majesty's Government, it was agreed that the tenancy of the premises in question by the British subjects then in occupation should cease on the 31st December, 1892.

There would appear, therefore, to have been no ground for interference after that date on the part of any British Consular authority, and I am disposed to think that in view of the personal relations existing between Mr. Fernau and Mr. Lamb, the arbitrary action taken by the Vice-Consul in the matter was such as to constitute a grave abuse of his official position, tending to prejudice British interests in Morocco, and indeed to compromise the British name.

I have accordingly to request that you will call upon Mr. Vice-Consul Fernau for any explanations which he may wish to offer in justification of his proceedings, and that you will furnish me with a careful report upon the whole case, founded upon such further inquiry as you are able to institute, in order that I may be in a position to consider what steps, if any, should be taken in the matter.

I am, &c.
 (Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 196.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 51.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 18, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of a correspondence which has passed between me and the British Vice-Consul at Fez regarding the suggestions which appear to have been made that he was engaged in illicit protection.

I have, &c.
 (Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 196.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Fez, March 9, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the evening of the 7th instant Sid Emfadi Gharneet sent for me.

The Vizir said that the Grand Vizir had heard repeatedly that I gave protections
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in great numbers to mountaineers in revolt against or in trouble with the Sultan. His Majesty had therefore requested Sid Emfadi Gharneet to make inquiry, at the same time saying that he presumed it was a calumnious report, that the Government had known me here for several years, that I was as one of themselves, &c.; and further, that His Majesty was most anxious to show that the ancient friendship between England and Morocco was now the same as it was before recent occurrences.

I answered that such a story as the above was a pure invention, propagated probably by some persons interested in creating ill-will between the Sultan and England, that the protections here were very few indeed, and that so far from interfering with the Government I had almost daily to turn away people who came imploring protection, &c., and that all our neighbours knew this to be the case.

Sid Emfadi said he was sure such was the case, and it agreed with what others had told him, and asked me to furnish him with a list of the Consular protégés, and employés of my own, and all other British protégés and employés* in this district.

I gave the Vizir the names of the Consular protégés, and of my own employés here and at Sifroo, but said that I could not, without your Excellency's instructions, undertake to give a (written) list of all protégés.

Sid Emfadi hinted that such a list would, if furnished, effectually silence such stories, and set His Majesty's mind at rest on the point.

Referring to Mr. Rizzo's case, the Vizir said they would be much obliged if I would not in any way assist that gentleman, as his appointment was most distasteful to the Sultan, who did not see, considering that the Americans and Portuguese had no trade here, what necessity there was for such a Consular Agency.

I answered that I had nothing to do or to say in the matter as between them and Mr. Rizzo, and they would find me inclined to mind my own affairs exclusively.

Sid Emfadi was very friendly and cordial throughout, but of course, bearing in mind his notoriously shifty character, I offer no opinion as to what his real meaning or intentions are.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 196.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Sir, Tangier, March 17, 1893.
IN reply to your despatch of the 9th instant, I have to inform you that there is no objection whatever to your furnishing the Shereefian Government with a list of all British protégés for whom you have obtained certificates.

On the contrary, it is your duty, as you will learn from the Circular of the 18th December, 1891, from this Legation to the Consular officers (copy of which is herewith inclosed), to give the information asked for, and I have accordingly to request that you will do so in future in the manner prescribed.

In the meantime, there is no objection to your giving the Minister a list of the persons for whom you have obtained certificates. In this list you should include the names, marginally noted,† of persons who have been granted certificates directly from this Legation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 196.

Circular addressed by Sir C. Euan-Smith to Her Majesty's Consular Officers in Morocco.

Sir, Tangier, December 18, 1891.
AS I have been informed from various sources that there have unfortunately been cases in which the rights accorded to foreign merchants by Articles IX and X of the Madrid Convention to employ semsars and agents have from one cause or another

* "Mokhallata."

† Semsar: Hadj Dris C. Mohammed-el-Hela, employer, Kaïd Maclean. Agent: Abderrahman Guessus, employer, Hadj-el-Arbi Guessus, Manchester. Protégé: Hamed-ben-Hadj Dueally, Special Courier to the British Legation.

been abused, I am anxious that every precaution be taken to prevent the possibility of such abuses arising in the case of the employés of British subjects.

It is difficult for me here to decide as to the *bona fides* of applications for semsars or agents, made by merchants residing at a distance, and I am compelled in a great measure to rely upon the co-operation of the Consular officers, whose duty it is, by inquiries on the spot, to ascertain whether or not the export and import business of the various merchants entitles them to obtain the certificates for which they may apply for persons in their employment, also whether the persons are so employed, and whether these persons are of good character, and have not exposed themselves either to civil or criminal process at the hands of the Moorish authorities. You will be good enough, at as early a date as possible, to transmit to me complete lists of the semsars and agents required by merchants residing in your district, limiting their number to those who are strictly required for the purposes of their trade, and in strict accordance with existing regulations, and bearing in mind that these lists, which are made on your own responsibility, must be carefully drawn up, and that lists of (1) semsars, and (2) agents ("Mokhallata") should be shown in separate lists. Each list should be drawn up in English and in Arabic, and should contain *all the names in full* of the persons employed, the district they reside in, and the designation of their employment. Four copies should be sent of each list, of which two will be returned to you after approval; one you will keep at your Consular office, and the other you will deliver to the Governor of the town. Of the remaining lists, one will be filed in this office, and the other delivered to Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres.

On receipt of the new certificates, you should be careful to recover all the expired certificates, and return them to me for cancellation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. B. EUAN-SMITH.

No. 197.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 88.)
My Lord,

Madrid, March 23, 1893.

IN the papers of the last few days references have appeared to some arrangement between the Spanish and Moorish Governments connected with Melilla. The Marquis de la Vega de Armijo informed me yesterday that the arrangement in question was the signature by the Moorish Government of an Agreement, concluded two years ago, for the delimitation of the Spanish territory round that Settlement, and the delivery of the document to the Spanish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 198.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir W. Ridgeway.

(No. 45.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, April 1, 1893.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 51 of the 18th ultimo, I have to convey to you my approval of the instructions which you issued to Vice-Consul McLeod as to furnishing the Moorish Government with a list of all the persons within his Consular district to whom certificates of British protection have been granted.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 199.

Sir W. Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 52.)
My Lord,

Tangier, March 25, 1893.

COUNT D'AUBIGNY, the French Minister, spoke to me a few days ago on the subject of the proposed extension of the town of Daralbaida, which has been sanctioned by the Sultan. At the present time a space of ground has been inclosed by

walls which, it is said, will not be completed till the end of the year. Count d'Aubigny, however, is desirous of accelerating the construction of buildings within these walls, and of making arrangements for the allotment of houses.

Having the authority of your Lordship's despatch No. 131 of the 21st December, 1892, to Mr. Eliot, and being convinced of the great advantage of acting in concert with France at the present moment, I expressed to Count d'Aubigny my readiness to join in such a representation, only making it a condition that such of our colleagues who were interested in the matter should have the option of joining if they desired. Should they not care to do so, I propose to make a representation "à deux" with the French Minister.

As a preliminary measure, Count d'Aubigny and myself have written to our respective Vice-Consuls at Daralbaïda, asking for information on certain points of practical importance connected with the new buildings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 200.

Sir W. Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 25, 1893.

IN my last preceding despatch of this date I have referred to a proposal made to me by Count d'Aubigny, the French Minister here, that England and France should act together in the matter of the extension of the town of Casablanca.

During the conversation Count d'Aubigny, referring to his recent visit to Fez, informed me that he had experienced great difficulty in obtaining even the small concessions that had been made to him. He said that all the Sultan's Ministers, without one exception, had vehemently opposed him, and that it was only by a personal appeal to the Sultan that he had obtained what he did. He added that the real value of the concessions which he obtained was that the Chamber were thereby justified in applying the Minimum Tariff to imports from Morocco, which was a great advantage for French trade.

M. d'Aubigny added that he was convinced that the best policy to pursue as regards the Moorish Government was to proceed gradually and to extract such concessions instead of attempting to carry everything by one stroke.

I expressed my entire concurrence in this view, and added that in my opinion it was most desirable that in questions of general interest, such as commerce, the Powers interested should act in cooperation. Count d'Aubigny readily assented, and said that he saw no reason "now" why England and France should not act together—agreed as they were on the vital question of the *status quo*.

I do not wish to attach any great importance to M. d'Aubigny's words, it would be a mistake to do so. But even supposing that these were merely the expression of a pious wish, the fact that the French Minister is in the temper to go even so far indicated a great improvement in the attitude of his Legation. I believe that nothing would so disconcert the Sultan, and so tend to defeat his obstructive policy, as an understanding between France and England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 201.

Sir W. Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 54.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Réveil du Maroc,"* stating that I had informed the Sultan of my desire to visit Fez, received in reply an intimation that such a visit would be inconvenient at the present moment, but still persisted in my request, saying that I should only be a very short time at Fez.

My Austrian colleague inquired of me recently respecting the truth of these statements, and I naturally replied that they were one and all devoid of foundation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

* Not printed.

No. 202.

Sir W. Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 55.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 25, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Réveil du Maroc,"* giving an account of a daring attempt at robbery made on the house of an Interpreter of the French Legation.

It is not improbable, and certainly desirable, that this incident may lead to a revival of the question of police protection at Tangier, which has been allowed to slumber since the receipt of the note of the Basha, reported by Mr. Eliot in his despatch No. 252 of the 19th December last.

In this connection I would refer your Lordship to Sir C. Euan-Smith's despatch No. 27, Confidential, of the 9th February, 1892, with which I entirely agree in as far as it describes the danger to be apprehended from the Spanish colony in Tangier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 203.

Sir W. Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 56.)

My Lord,

Tangier, March 25, 1893.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 21 of the 16th March, and to previous correspondence on the subject of the proposed representation to be made by the Corps Diplomatique to the Sultan urging him to permit the free export of wheat and barley from the coast to Tangier, I have the honour to report that only the German and Austrian Ministers have shown any hesitation in taking part in such a step.

A note has been accordingly drafted by the Doyen, and, if it obtains the approbation of the other Ministers who desire to join in the representation, I propose to sign it myself for the sake of securing unity of action.

Meanwhile, Count d'Aubigny, without waiting for the action of his colleagues, has addressed a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs on his own account, and has given me a copy of the same, which I inclose herewith.

Should the draft proposed by the Doyen not be adopted, which I consider very possible, I propose to send to the Minister of Foreign Affairs the note of which I have the honour to transmit a draft herewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 203.

Count d'Aubigny to Cid Emfadl Gharnit.

Tanger, le 14 Mars, 1893.

LES céréales et les grains subissent en ce moment un renchérissement inquiétant à Tanger. Le prix du blé et de l'orge a doublé depuis un an et menace de s'élever encore, et ces denrées deviennent presque inabordables pour la classe pauvre. Il est de mon devoir de te signaler cette situation menaçante pour que tu la portes sans retard à la connaissance de ton maître et que tu lui conseilles en même temps le moyen d'y remédier.

Le seul moyen est de transporter à Tanger sur des navires des grains pris dans les ports de la côte où ils se trouvent en abondance et à bon marché. Mais ce transport est interdit depuis quelques années déjà. Il importe qu'il soit autorisé sans retard, au moins à titre provisoire.

Pour éviter tout danger de contrebande, ceux qui transporteront ces grains sont tout disposés à fournir à la douane du port d'embarquement une somme représentant largement le montant des droits d'exportation afférents aux quantités de grains embarqués à destination de Tanger, ou une garantie équivalente. Ces sommes seront ensuite remboursées par les Oumanas de ce dernier port après constatation que les

* Not printed.

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quantités se trouvant au débarquement sont conformes à ce qu'elles étaient à l'embarquement. De cette façon les douanes ne perdront rien et un grand soulagement sera apporté à la misère qui sévit ici. La même autorisation devra être donnée pour Tétouan, où les céréales sont également fort rares.

Je prie le Sultan, dans l'intérêt de ses propres sujets, de donner une prompte satisfaction à ma demande. Plusieurs des Représentants des Puissances résidant à Tanger, émus comme moi de la misère dont souffrent les pauvres gens, vont t'adresser la même demande.

Inclosure 2 in No. 203.

Sir W. Ridgeway to Cid Emfadl Gharnit.

(After compliments.)

Tangier, March , 1893.

A NUMBER of inhabitants—foreigners and others—of this town have recently memorialized the Corps Diplomatique regarding the great dearth of wheat and barley at the present moment. The prices are so high, that these necessary articles of food are not obtainable by the poorer classes in Tangier and Tetuan in sufficient quantities to sustain life, and consequently there is great danger of sickness, and perhaps death, among many poor foreigners who inhabit this town. The same is the case as regards His Majesty's own subjects.

Although grain is so dear at Tangier and Tetuan, yet at other ports along the coasts there is plenty to be obtained at reasonable prices, and if His Majesty would make arrangements which would permit of this grain being sold, so long as the present scarcity continues, at the same price (plus the cost of carriage) at which it is sold locally, much will be done to alleviate the sufferings of the inhabitants of Tangier and Tetuan.

I am informed that His Majesty has in former years of scarcity made similar concessions, and I strongly recommend His Majesty to take the same course on the same occasion.

To avoid all danger of fraud, the shippers are ready to deposit a sum equivalent to the export duty in the hands of the Oomana at the port of exportation, and this sum would be returned to them when it is proved that the quantity of grain landed at Tangier corresponds with that shipped from the port or the coast.

No. 204.

The North-West African Company to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

132, Cheapside, London, April 5, 1893.

I AM instructed by the Directors of the North-West African Company (Limited) to report to your Lordship several incidents which have occurred at Cape Juby during the last few weeks.

Interference with Trade.—Whether by the order of the Sultan of Morocco or not, it is a fact that Dahman, the Moorish Governor of Wadnoon, has, since last summer, actively and successfully interfered with the trade to Cape Juby, and the trade is now at a standstill. A company of the Sultan's soldiers is encamped near our station, and has been joined by disaffected and robber tribes in the pay of Dahman. Traders are prevented from approaching the station, the wells have been defiled and filled up, and the soldiers have opened fire on the shore-house. The friendly tribes are kept constantly in a state of alarm by threatenings of war by Dahman, crops are being neglected, and famine seems imminent. We are in possession of evidence from our own staff, as well as from the friendly tribes, in support of the above statements, and we will, at an early date, lay such evidence before your Lordship in a complete form. Tekna is 300 miles by 400 miles in extent, and year by year its population is diminishing consequent upon war, famine, and the utter demoralization of the people, so that at present less than 40,000 persons find there a precarious existence.

Spanish Captives.—The Spaniards, whom it has been alleged were betrayed by the Syrian, Spiridon Ayoub, into the hands of the Arabs, are said to have been ransomed at the Rio de Oro, the Syrian remaining in the country.

Visit of the "Fingal."—On the 3rd January last this steam yacht called on Cape Juby to inquire for the Syrian mentioned in the preceding paragraph, from whom, it

would appear, glowing accounts had been obtained of the mineral wealth of the country. The party on board consisted of Mr. George James Cross and his son, and two sons of Sir Alfred Kirby. Our Manager at Cape Juby warned them of the danger they would incur if they landed, as they proposed, near Cape Bojador. The freight of the vessel consisted of various mining and prospecting implements and plant. We heard little of the party until the 3rd March last, when they reappeared off the coast, a few miles south of Cape Juby, having hired the "Indio," a Canary vessel, for their purpose. They had on board a man named Woodville, who was formerly in our service. The Spanish crew having declined to go ashore, Woodville volunteered to swim ashore, and in doing so was drowned. Messrs. Cross and Kirby came in a boat to the Castle at Cape Juby, begging for assistance to recover the body of Woodville. Our staff gave them every assistance, and Mr. Cross wrote a statement of the case, which was sent by our Manager to Her Majesty's Consul at Teneriffe. During the visit Mr. Cross spoke freely of being in correspondence with Her Majesty's Foreign Office on the subject of his expedition or quest, and also stated that he had letters of recent date from your Lordship. We were informed by an Arab who had been on board the "Indio" that he was shown a paper written in Arabic, which was to be signed by the said Spiridon Ayoub and certain Arabs whom he had named. These persons have no right to sign any Treaty or Concession, as they are ordinary tribesmen only. The "Indio" sailed for Mogador on the 10th March, where Mr. Cross said he was "going to see the Consul on Government business."

Telegraph Ship.—A steamer named the "Dacia," belonging to the India-rubber, Gutta-percha, and Telegraph Works (Limited), of Silvertown, E., and Cannon Street, City, called at Cape Juby on the 27th February last. The engineer in charge (Mr. Benest), and Mr. Webb, his assistant, landed there, and examined the place with a view to its becoming a telegraph station. Soundings were taken, and Captain Thompson said that he failed to find such a current along the coast as stated in the charts, and that if this fact were better understood, steamers bound for England would keep along the coast and so save much time.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 205.

The North-West African Company to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 6.)

My Lord,

132, Cheapside, London, April 6, 1893.

REFERRING to our letter of the 17th January last, and your Lordship's reply of the 24th January last:—

We have made arrangements with the London Joint Stock Bank (Limited), of Princes Street, City, E.C., to receive the amount of the third instalment of the indemnity, namely, 10,000*l.*, due on the 10th instant, on our behalf.

The Directors will feel obliged to your Lordship if you can arrange for the same course to be followed in respect of the payment as was adopted when the last instalment was received.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 206.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 6.)

(No. 34.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, April 6, 1893, 7:30 P.M.

THE Italian officer in command of the Military Mission at Fez has informed his Government that the French are reported to have occupied Tuat, but no further confirmation of this Report has been received here.

No. 207.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 6, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 56 of the 25th ultimo. I should wish you to adhere strictly to the instructions sent in my telegram No. 11 of the 9th ultimo respecting the question of the importation of grain to Tangier.

No. 208.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 7, 1893.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 14, I have to state that my note and those of several other Ministers have been already sent to Fez.

All the foreign Representatives have agreed to dispatch notes couched in substantially identic language.

No. 209.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 49.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 7, 1893.

I APPROVE the action which you propose to take in concert with your French colleague with regard to the extension of the town of Dar-al-Baida, as reported in your despatch No. 52 of the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 210.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 8.)

(No. 5. Consular.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 3, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 3, Consular, of the 23rd February, regarding the action of Mr. Fernau, Vice-Consul at Dar-al-Baida, in affixing the seals of his Vice-Consulate to certain premises claimed by the Italian Legation, I have the honour to inclose copy of a report by Mr. Eliot, who has recently visited Dar-al-Baida, on the circumstances of the case.

Your Lordship will observe that the Shereefian letter to the local authorities of the 18th October, 1889, does not coincide with the letters addressed by the Shereefian Court to the Italian Legation, inasmuch as, instead of conveying the existing premises to that Legation, it merely gives them the right of erecting an additional story.

I took the opportunity when M. Gentile, the Dragoman of the Italian Legation, happened to be calling on me, to hand him copy of the Shereefian letter of the 18th October, 1889, explaining that I merely did so because I thought that M. Cantagalli might like to see it, and not with any intention of reopening a question which, so far as this Legation was concerned, had been finally closed by the award of the 22nd July, 1891, made by Messrs. Cantagalli and White. In reply, I received a letter from M. Cantagalli, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

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Inclosure 1 in No. 210.

M. Cantagalli to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Extract.)

Tangier, March 30, 1893.

I HAVE to thank you for the communication of a Shereefian letter (and its translation) addressed to Ben Saïd, the former owner of the two warehouses to which we claim possession and right of property. You authorize me to keep that letter, for which I also thank you most cordially.

It may not have escaped you that the Shereefian letter is dated the 18th October, 1889, at a time, that is, when, in consequence of some unpleasantness having arisen between our two Legations, the Sultan, while still partially recognizing our right, by ordering the Consular dwelling to be built above the warehouses, empowered Ben Saïd to retain possession of these last. His new order, however, was not directly communicated to us, nor at any rate could it be considered by me as infirming [*sic*; ? invalidating] our previously established rights, but only as suspending their full effects until the matter pending between the two Legations should be satisfactorily settled.

Although you have most openly and loyally recognized the intangibility of our position, and just because of your great frankness and courtesy, I think I owed you such explanations.

Inclosure 2 in No. 210.

Shereefian Letter to the Oomana.

(Translation.)

I COMMAND you (plural) to build for the Italian Consul in your town a place for him to dwell in above the two stores which were built by our officer, Ben Saïd of Salli, on the piece of ground which was given to him as a present, and to find for the said Consul a place to live in whilst you are building that, and the two stores shall remain in the hands of our said officer, and he shall have the usufruct of them. Peace.

22 Safer, 1307.

Inclosure 3 in No. 210.

Report on Mr. Fernau's Conduct in connection with Kaïd-ben-Saïd's Stores at Dar-al-Baida.

(Confidential.)

IN December 1892 M. Cantagalli, the Italian Minister, informed me that he had not cleared up all points connected with these stores and the establishment of an Italian Vice-Consulate in them, and suggested that Mr. Hunter, the then occupant, who, in virtue of the Agreement made by M. Cantagalli and Mr. White, was to vacate them by the 1st January, 1893, should continue in possession for some time until all difficulties were arranged. M. Cantagalli offered to let him remain as long as two years, but Mr. Hunter, who thought he had been badly treated in the matter by both the British and Italian Legations, said he would prefer not to avail himself of the offer.

Mr. Hunter accordingly vacated the stores, and, with the express consent of M. Cantagalli, gave up the key, not to any Italian Representative, but to the person who had let the stores to him, which, according to Moorish custom, implied that the said person was still owner of the stores.

On the 1st January the Italian Vice-Consul affixed the seals of the Vice-Consulate to the door of the stores.

On the 8th January Mr. Fernau came up to Tangier and asked me whether he might not rent the stores from the owner, seeing that the Italians had offered to let Mr. Hunter remain two years longer as tenant, and were not able or disposed to occupy the building themselves for some time. I desired him not to mix himself up in the matter, and said it would not be well for any Englishman occupying an official position to seem to advance claims against the Italians, when we had abandoned all such claims officially. He then asked if any other British subject might rent the stores. I said that if the key had been returned to the landlord, and the Italians made no attempt to enforce their claims, I did not see why the owner should not make what private contracts he chose with any private person.

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It is to be noted that Mr. Fernau said nothing to me about the Italian seals having been affixed, and that his whole language implied that no such visible sign of a claim had been made.

Mr. Fernau went back to Dar-al-Baida, and apparently advised his brother-in-law, Mr. Lamb, one of the best known and most respectable merchants down the coast, to hire the stores from the owner.

He then, as reported, affixed the seals of the British Vice-Consulate to the doors, and subsequently removed them under instructions from Sir West Ridgeway.

When I was at Dar-al-Baida on the 10th March, I was shown a copy of the Shereefian letter to the Oomana (Customs Administration), which merely orders them to build a new story on the top of the existing stores, and adds, "but the stores shall remain in the hand of my servant (the owner) to dispose of them." This does not at all agree with the terms of the Shereefian letter to M. Cantagalli as cited by him, as his Excellency stated that he was granted possession of the stores as well as the right of building.

I have little doubt from what I heard in Dar-al-Baida that the authorities, though afraid to interfere in the matter, were of opinion that the Italians had no right to the stores already existing.

This Legation has of course abandoned all opposition to the Italian claim, but I do not see why, in the face of the document produced by the Oomana, and of the offers made by M. Cantagalli to Mr. Hunter, a private Englishman should not have hired the stores from the owner if he so desired. Had the transaction been illegal, the authorities ought not to have given the necessary documents, which they did without making difficulties.

On the other hand, Mr. Fernau was wrong in failing to report that the Italian seals were affixed on the 1st January, and in affixing British seals without instructions.

April 3, 1893.

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 211.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 15.)

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, April 10, 1893.

CAPE JUBY Indemnity. Company request that instalment may be forwarded to London Joint-Stock Bank (Limited).

No. 212.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 23.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 11, 1893.

THE instalment of the Cape Juby indemnity, about which your Lordship inquires in your telegram No. 15, is not yet forthcoming. I called the attention of Hadj Mohammed Torres to the matter on the 13th February, and, as this seems to have had no effect, have now sent a special courier to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

No. 213.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 7, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 56 of the 25th ultimo, and with reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 14 of yesterday, I have the honour to state that the majority of the Corps Diplomatique being in favour of addressing identic or quasi-identic notes instead of a collective note to the Sultan regarding the free export of wheat and barley from the coast to Tangier and Tetuan, I have dispatched the note of which I had the honour to submit a copy in my despatch under reference.

The chief objection to the note drafted by the Doyen was that it did not

sufficiently make it clear that the concession was to be merely provisional and to meet the existing distress. Count Tattenbach, to whom I communicated verbally the substance of my note, considered it unobjectionable and he has either addressed or is about to address the Sultan to the same effect. The Austrian Minister also agreed to take the same course. The Corps Diplomatique is consequently unanimous.

Meantime the distress owing to the scarcity of flour is increasing, and unless the Sultan takes some steps to alleviate it, crime and sickness will probably follow.

The Italian Minister communicated to me a copy of the French translation of his note, which I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 213.

M. Cantagalli to the Sultan of Morocco.

Louanges à Dieu.

IL n'est point de force et de puissance en dehors de lui, le Très-Haut, le Tout-Puissant.

A Sa Majesté le Sultan du Maroc, Sous, et Tafilet.

Que Dieu éternise dans les pages de l'histoire sa gloire et sa grandeur.

Et après :

La difficulté qu'éprouvent les habitants pauvres de Tanger et Sous, ceux qui vivent du produit de leur travail, à s'approvisionner de blé, a créé une situation dont la gravité s'accroît tous les jours, au point de vue des souffrances auxquelles ils sont exposés et sous le rapport de la sécurité publique; car la cherté des denrées de première nécessité exerce une influence fâcheuse sur les indigents.

Dans cet état de choses préjudiciable dans ses effets autant aux classes pauvres qu'aux classes aisées, un grand nombre d'habitants de cette ville s'est adressé à moi ainsi qu'à tous les autres Représentants des Puissances étrangères dans le but d'obtenir de votre Majesté, par leur entremise, un remède à ce mal. Ce remède, que les habitants de Tanger, en masse, sans distinction de croyance et de nationalité, demandent respectueusement et attendent anxieux de votre bonté, c'est que votre Majesté Chérifiennne permette pour un temps limité dont la durée serait fixée par votre haute sagesse, l'embarquement de blés, libre de tout droit des ports de la côte pour Tanger, embarquement qui serait entouré des garanties nécessaires et déjà appliquées en des cas analogues, dans le but d'assurer le débarquement de ces blés dans ce port.

La même Pétition a été adressée au Corps Diplomatique par les habitants de Tétuan qui se trouvent dans les mêmes conditions que ceux de Tanger.

Il est une autre circonstance que je dois également signaler à votre Majesté. C'est que, par suite du renchérissement des blés, le marché de cette ville surtout est inondé de farines de mauvaise qualité dont l'usage peut amener de sérieuses conséquences pour la santé publique.

En vue de ce qui précède et qui demande l'adoption immédiate de mesures destinées à y porter remède, et plein de confiance dans les sentiments magnanimes de votre Majesté, je m'empresse, suivant en ceci l'exemple de mes collègues, de soumettre à votre Majesté les désirs des populations des deux fidèles villes susnommées, en y joignant mes plus chaleureuses recommandations pour que votre Majesté daigne leur réserver un accueil favorable.

Écrit à Tanger, ce jour

Mars, 1893.

No. 214.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 13.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 7, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the correspondence relating to an alleged assault on Mr. Walter Harris, and to request your Lordship's instructions as to the course to be adopted by me.

Your Lordship will observe that the incident took place nine months ago, and

that the conduct of Mr. Harris and his servants does not seem to have been altogether characterized by discretion. On the other hand, an assault appears to have been committed on an English traveller, and the Shereefian Court has not complied with the demand for "immediate and most ample satisfaction and reparation" made by Sir Charles Euan-Smith.

If the matter is further pursued, it should, I think, be taken up promptly, and forced to a satisfactory conclusion.

Your Lordship will observe that, in the letter cited by Mr. Harris, Sir Charles Euan-Smith refers to his having demanded pecuniary compensation,—he thinks 1,500 dollars. I can find no trace of any such demand, nor of the alleged reply by Gharneet, but Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu has some recollection of that Minister having said that he had instituted an inquiry.

My own opinion is, that it is very undesirable to claim pecuniary compensation in such cases. Such compensation is often a premium on quarrels with the inhabitants of the country, and unless actual pecuniary loss has, directly or indirectly, been sustained, I think that we should content ourselves with demanding the punishment of the guilty persons. It may, however, be desirable to require that punishment to take the shape of a fine, but I doubt whether it should be paid to the complainant unless he can prove that he has suffered pecuniarily. It might be credited to a Legation fund, to be used for public purposes, at the discretion of the Minister.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 214.

Mr. Harris to Sir C. Euan-Smith.

Sir,

Tangier, July 6, 1892.

I REGRET to have to report to your Excellency an unpleasant circumstance which occurred to me on my journey from Fez to Tangier on Sunday, the 4th July. I was accompanied at the time by a Government soldier, and was, as your Excellency is aware, the bearer of a Shereefian letter. After leaving Alcazar I camped at the village of Korota, in the "hakuma" of the Kaïd of Laraiche, and there pitched our tents shortly after sunset, my soldier taking the letter to the Mosque to be read. The letter does not contain anything about "mona" being supplied, but the soldier demanded it, and was refused. Finally, on the soldier and some village people coming to my tent, I told them that whatever they brought would be paid for. They then said that the Sultan's letter contained nothing about bringing provisions, either with or without money, and they refused to sell me anything. We had come with no food with us, and had not eaten since the morning.

We spent the night without anything, and early the following morning my soldier took one of their sheep and tied it to a tent-peg, telling the people that he would return it as soon as they brought us food, which would be paid for. Suddenly, about twenty men rushed the camp, rescued the sheep, and belaboured my men with sticks and blows. Seeing all my men on the ground being beaten I ran to their assistance, firing a shot from my revolver over the heads of their assailants, whereupon they rushed on me from behind, threw me on the ground, and tore my clothes, roughly handling me. My men were bruised, and one had his wrist a little cut; I escaped with only my clothes torn, but a little shaken. Fortunately, some older men called the others off, and all slunk back into the village, having rescued their sheep and still refusing to sell to us, with the result that, for twenty-four hours, we never tasted food.

Korota is about four hours the Tangier side of Alcazar, and is a regular Government "Nzala." All along the road from Fez to Tangier we found the people most unpleasant and hostile, and on two occasions they, in spite of the Sultan's letter, refused altogether to sell to us.

I trust your Excellency will not allow this ill-treatment of a British subject to pass without notice. This affair took place on the high road from Tangier to Fez.

The people, let me add, are everywhere in the greatest state of fanaticism, and I am certain, from my knowledge of the country, that unless the Sultan takes immediate steps to protect the safety of Europeans, some serious outrage will take place.

I beg to remain, &c.

(Signed) WALTER B. HARRIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 214.

Sir C. Euan-Smith to Cid Emfadi Gharneet.

(After compliments.)

Fez, July 11, 1892 (Higge 16, 1309).

I DESIRE to bring to your Excellency's notice without a moment's delay an incident of a serious nature which has befallen an English traveller, Mr. Harris, on his way from Fez to Tangier, although he was the bearer of a Sultan's letter recommending him to protection and attention. The people of the village of Korota in the jurisdiction of the Basha of Laraiche attacked his servants with sticks, and when he attempted to protest they dared to throw him down, beat him, and tear his clothes. This all arose simply because he desired them to sell him the provisions he required.

I must demand immediately the most ample satisfaction and reparation for this barefaced outrage, especially so, as I understand that a general spirit of lawlessness and insubordination to the Sultan's rule is prevalent in all the country between Wazan and Alcazar.

Peace.

Inclosure 3 in No. 214.

Mr. Harris to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Tangier, April 2, 1893.

I BEG to call your Excellency's attention to a case that was pending between the Moorish Government and myself at the time of Sir Charles Euan-Smith's departure to England. The case refers to an attack that was made upon me on my return journey from Fez on the 4th July, 1892, the original letters referring to which are in the archives of Her Britannic Majesty's Legation, and about which I have received a letter from Sir Charles Euan-Smith, who writes:—

"As to your being attacked at Korota, I remember perfectly well, while at Fez, writing a letter to the Sultan on the subject, demanding compensation—I think 1,500 dollars; and I received an answer, whether verbally or in writing I cannot say for certain, from Gharneet, to the effect that inquiries had been made, that the assault had been verified, and that the money should be paid and the culprits punished. A copy of my letter should certainly be in the archives, but as the matter occurred towards the end of my stay in Fez, I cannot say for certain whether Gharneet's answer was verbal or in writing. In any case, it was to the effect stated above."

Needless to say, Sir, the money has never been paid, nor the culprits punished.

I trust that if your Excellency finds the opportunity suitable, the case may be brought again to the notice of His Shereefian Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WALTER B. HARRIS.

No. 215.

The North-West African Company to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 14.)

My Lord,

132, Cheapside, London, April 13, 1893.

WE beg to call the attention of your Lordship to the terms of the settlement entered into between Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier and the Sultan of Morocco, dated the 20th February, 1891, in respect to the payment to this Company of the sum of 50,000*l.*, by instalments of 10,000*l.* a-year for five years, for losses sustained by the Company.

The settlement was made in the following terms: "The Sultan has commanded me to answer you that he has accepted to pay the said 50,000*l.* to the Company on that account, payment being extended over five years, so that he will pay each year to the Company one-fifth of the said amount, namely, 10,000*l.*, and the question of the establishment of the Company at Cape Juby will remain on the same footing as hitherto."

A letter received from the Foreign Office, dated the 2nd May, 1891, covers a Memorandum setting forth the respective dates upon which the said instalments will be paid.

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The Company have received, through Her Majesty's Government, two instalments of 10,000*l.* each, and the third is now past due.

The Directors beg that your Lordship will cause inquiry to be made respecting the delay in the payment of the third instalment due, according to the said Memorandum, on the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 216.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 8, 1893.

SINCE writing my despatch No. 60 of yesterday's date, I have again seen Count Tattenbach, who informed me that after the conversation there mentioned he dispatched to Fez a note almost, if not quite, identical with mine.

With regard to the Spanish note, I am not certain if it was sent by M. Figuera, who has just left, or by his successor, who arrived some days before his departure. As, however, not only M. Figuera, but the whole Spanish colony were keenly interested in the matter, and in some measure took the lead in proposing a representation to the Sultan, I think there is little doubt that the note has been sent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 217.

General Post Office to Foreign Office.—(Received April 15.)

Sir,

General Post Office, London, April 14, 1893.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 17th February last, and the Foreign Office reply of the 20th of that month, respecting the German Postal Agency at Tien-tsin, I beg leave to inclose a copy of a further Circular from the International Bureau of the Postal Union announcing that the French Postal Administration is desirous of having the name of the French post-office at Tien-tsin, and the names of several French post-offices recently established in Morocco, inserted in Article 38 of the Detailed Regulations appended to the Postal Union Convention, in order to show that those offices are assimilated to the Postal Union as subordinate to the Postal Administration of France.

So far as this Department is concerned, there is no reason for opposing the formal proposal intended to give effect to the object in view; but, before assenting to the proposal, the Postmaster-General would be glad to learn whether the Earl of Rosebery sees any objection on political or diplomatic grounds to the recognition of the French post-offices referred to as included in the Postal Union.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ALGERNON TURNOR.

Inclosure in No. 217.

International Bureau of the Postal Union to General Post Office.

Monsieur,

Berne, le 4 Avril, 1893.

L'ADMINISTRATION Française vient de me charger de saisir les Administrations de l'Union d'une proposition tendant à faire dénommer le bureau de poste Français existant à Tien-Tsin (Chine) et plusieurs bureaux de poste Français récemment établis au Maroc, dans l'Article 38 du Règlement de Détail et d'Ordre pour l'exécution de la Convention principale.

En conséquence, j'ai l'honneur de vous soumettre, à cet effet, au nom de l'Administration Française, la proposition suivante :—

" Proposition.

" Le chiffre 5 de l'Article 38 du Règlement de Détail et d'Ordre pour l'exécution de la Convention principale est modifié comme suit :—

" 5. L'Algérie, comme faisant partie de la France; la Principauté de Monaco et les bureaux de poste Français établis à Tanger, Casablanca, El-Ksar-el-Kbir, Fez, Larrache, Mazagan, Mogador, Rabat, et Safi (Maroc), à Shang-Hai et à Tien-Tsin (Chine) et à Zanzibar, comme relevant de l'Administration des Postes de France; le Cambodge, l'Annam et le Tonkin, comme assimilés, quant au service postal, à la Colonie Française de Cochinchine."

Me référant à l'Article 38 du Règlement susmentionné, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de bien vouloir examiner cette proposition et, le cas échéant, me faire parvenir, dans un délai de cinq mois à partir de la date de la présente Circulaire, les observations, amendements ou contre-propositions auxquels elle peut donner lieu de la part de votre Administration.

Veuillez agréer, &c.
Le Directeur,
(Signé) ED. HÖHN.

No. 218.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 15, 1893.

IN reply to your letter of the 13th instant, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to request you to state to the Directors of the North-West African Company that a telegram has been received from Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, reporting that he has called the attention of the Moorish Government to the delay in the payment of the third instalment of the Cape Juby indemnity, which fell due on the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 219.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 17.)

(No. 64.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 10, 1893.

IN my despatch No. 52 of the 25th March, 1893, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that I proposed to join Count d'Aubigny in making a representation *à deux* to the Sherrefian Court regarding the extension of the town of Daralbaida, if the Representatives of other Powers interested did not care to join.

In consequence of your Lordship's telegram No. 14 of the 6th instant, which seems to discountenance action of this kind, I have deferred taking any further steps in the matter until I have received your Lordship's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 220.

Questions asked in the House of Commons, April 17, 1893; and Answers.

THE MISSION TO MOROCCO.

Mr. Disraeli.—I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can conveniently give the House any information as to the conduct of the Mission under Sir West Ridgeway to Morocco; and, whether the progress of diplomatic negotiations with the Sultan have been so far favourable to this country?

Sir E. Grey.—I have no special information to give in regard to Sir West

Ridgeway's Mission. Our relations with the Moorish Government are not unsatisfactory, but we are not at present engaged in any negotiations with them.

Mr. Disraeli.—When will the papers be laid on the table?

Sir E. Grey.—I cannot say.

Mr. J. W. Lowther.—Is the Mission now at Tangier, or has it proceeded to the Sultan?

Sir E. Grey.—It remains at Tangier, and I am not aware whether it has any intention of proceeding to Fez.

No. 221.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 18.)

(No. 24.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 18, 1893.

THE statements respecting the Sultan's health mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 17 are not supported by good information here. I received a letter from Kaïd Maclean to-day, which makes no mention of anything unusual.

Some time ago I sent privately to your Lordship a letter from Maclean, describing His Majesty's more or less chronic indisposition.

No. 222.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 16.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 18, 1893.

IF in your opinion it is necessary, with a view to a complete examination of British claims, that you should visit ports, you may do so; but bear in mind that such a visit will very likely excite comment.

No. 223.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 17.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 18, 1893.

A TELEGRAM in to-day's "Times" reports Sultan to be ill. Please keep me informed on this matter.

No. 224.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 53.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 18, 1893.

I HAVE received and considered your despatch No. 61, Confidential, of the 7th instant, with its inclosures, respecting the assault by Moorish villagers upon Mr. Walter B. Harris, on the 4th July, 1892, in the course of his journey from Fez to Tangier.

The attack appears to have been provoked by the ill-advised action of the Moorish soldier, who formed Mr. Harris' escort, in seizing a sheep, and by Mr. Harris' own act in discharging a revolver when the villagers came to rescue it; and I am, under these circumstances, disposed to think it fortunate that the incident should not have led to more serious consequences.

You should so inform Mr. Harris, and you should decline to make any further representation in his behalf to the Moorish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 225.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 54.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 18, 1893.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a letter from the Post Office* in regard to the desire expressed by the French Postal Administration, that the names of certain French post-offices recently established in Morocco should be inserted in Article XXXVIII of the detailed Regulations appended to the Postal Union Convention.

I have to request you to inform me, as soon as possible, whether, in your opinion, there is any objection, on political or diplomatic grounds, to the proposed step, the object of which is to show that the offices in question are assimilated to the Postal Union as subordinate to the Postal Administration of France.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 226.

Foreign Office to Colonial Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 18, 1893.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to transmit to you the accompanying copy of a letter from the Post Office* in regard to the wish of the French Postal Administration to insert in Article XXXVIII of the detailed Regulations appended to the Postal Union Convention the names of certain French post-offices recently established in Morocco.

As the result of such a step will be to show that the offices in question are assimilated to the Postal Union as subordinate to the Postal Administration of France, I am to request that the Marquis of Ripon will favour Lord Rosebery with his opinion whether, under the circumstances, there is any objection to the recognition of these French post-offices as forming part of the Postal Union.

I am to add that a copy of the inclosed letter has also been forwarded to Her Majesty's Representative at Tangier for his observations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P CURRIE.

No. 227.

Foreign Office to General Post Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 19, 1893.

IN reply to your letter of the 14th instant relative to the desire of the French Government that certain post-offices in Morocco, and also the post-office at Tien-tsin, should be added to the list appended to the Postal Union Convention, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to state that as regards the post-offices in Morocco the question has been referred to the Colonial Office and to Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, and that Her Majesty's Minister at Peking has similarly been instructed to report whether there is any objection on political or diplomatic grounds to the proposal of the French Government in regard to their post-office at Tien-tsin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 228.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 21.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 13, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 45 of the 2nd ultimo relative to the Concession obtained by Count Tattenbach in 1890, authorizing the export of wheat and barley from Morocco, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that his Excellency has since

informed me that he was mistaken in supposing that the Concession did not come into force till January 1891. As a fact, it came into force in October 1890, and will therefore expire in October next. Count Tattenbach further informed me that he had advised his Government that Germany had little interest in the continuance of the Concession, and it may consequently be inferred that he does not propose to take the initiative in any negotiations to that end.

I have the honour to inclose a Memorandum by Mr. Consul White on the benefits accruing to British trade from the Concession in question, which is based on reports and statistics furnished by the Vice-Consuls on the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 228.

Memorandum by Consul White.

Wheat.—At the present rate of duty, the export trade in wheat can never become important. The small shipments made during the years 1891-92 (26,450l.) were almost entirely for the Sultan's account (and consequently free of duty) or for the south of Spain, where, owing to bad harvests, prices were abnormally high. With an average harvest in Spain, there would practically be no wheat exported paying the present duty.

The wheat now grown in Morocco is a hard grain, and does not command a ready sale in the English market; but possibly a more suitable grain could be grown were the experiment to be made worth trying by the extension of the term of exportation and the lowering of the duty. A very important trade might arise under more favourable circumstances, but, under present conditions, the permission to export wheat is, as was foreseen, of little value.

Barley.—With barley the case is different. Notwithstanding the high rate of duty, a very considerable business has been done principally at the ports of Dar-al-Baida, Saffi, and Mazagan, about 363,600l. worth (or about one-tenth the total value of all exports) having been shipped during the last two years, of which about 65 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, as shown by the annexed statistics.

In addition to the immediate profits derived by local British merchants from the turnover of the grain, there is a considerable indirect benefit to British trade in general; the improved condition of the farmers (and all the natives are farmers) brought about by the advantageous sale of their grain cannot fail to give rise to a greater demand for European manufactured goods, by which Great Britain, who supplies nearly 60 per cent. of the total imports, must be correspondingly benefited. There is also a not unimportant gain to shipping from the development of the carrying trade. There is, apparently, even with the present high rate of duty, a reasonable expectation of a further development of the barley trade, should it remain open, and it is anticipated that it will become the most important of all the exports from this country, as it is the grain that is raised with least difficulty and at the smallest cost.

The withdrawal by the Sultan of the permission to export barley would be most deplorable; it would be withdrawing the edge of the wedge from the Sultan's policy of commercial obstruction, and the experiment having been once tried and abandoned by His Majesty, it will be very difficult to induce him to reopen the trade; whereas were the trade to remain open, a considerable business would undoubtedly be done in normal years, increasing with good harvests, and the Moorish Government would gradually become accustomed to seeing the grain leaving their country without any of the fatal consequences they anticipated; whilst, on the other hand, though they would probably be blind to the increased prosperity of the people, they could hardly fail to realize the advantage accruing to the Imperial Treasury from the customs receipts, and it may be hoped that eventually a reduction might be made in the rate of duty, whereby an enormous development in the trade would immediately ensue, as large tracts of land in the interior would then be able to send their grain to the coast for shipment, which at present they are precluded from doing by the high rate of duty, which, added to the heavy cost of transport to the coast, brings the price too high.

The same effect would be produced were railways to be laid connecting the grain-growing country with the coast towns, or even were the roads made fit for wheeled traffic.

With the export of barley permitted, there is thus a present considerable trade open to British merchants with the prospect of a future very important trade. If the Sultan withdraw his permission, a stop is put to this trade for an indefinite period.
(Signed) HERBERT E. WHITE.

Tangier, April 11, 1893.

WHEAT.

Port of Export.	1891.		1892.		Total.	
	To United Kingdom.	Total.	To United Kingdom.	Total.	To United Kingdom.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangier	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laraiche	..	50	..	..	..	50
Tetuan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rabat	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dar-al-Baida ..	252	4,840	1,168	8,135	1,410	12,975
Mazagan	..	3,100	3,024	10,324	3,024	13,424
Saffi	..	..	..	..	..	..
Mogador	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	252	7,990	4,182	18,459	4,434	26,449

German Legation figures, 4,432.

BARLEY.

Port of Export.	1891.		1892.		Total.	
	To United Kingdom.	Total.	To United Kingdom.	Total.	To United Kingdom.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangier	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tetuan	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laraiche	612	2,600	2,347	2,347	2,959	4,947
Rabat	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dar-al-Baida ..	96,596	152,704	60,228	122,536	156,824	275,240
Mazagan	6,388	12,572	11,384	12,984	17,772	25,556
Saffi	24,422	24,422	26,410	28,042	50,832	52,464
Mogador	1,810	2,208	2,226	3,194	4,036	5,402
Total	129,828	194,506	102,595	169,595	232,423	363,609

German Legation figures, 147,400.

NOTE.—In these Tables, figures of Exports to United Kingdom are taken from British Consular Reports. Totals from German Legation.

(Signed) H. E. W.

No. 229.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 22.)

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

MY telegram No. 23.

Tangier, April 22, 1893.

Hadj Mohammed Torres says that he expects to receive the instalment in a few days from the Custom-house of Daral-baida.

No. 230.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 18.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Foreign Office, April 22, 1893.

EXPORT of grain from Morocco. Do you think that any of the other foreign Representatives would join you in asking Moorish Government for an extension of the concession referred to in your despatch No. 65 of the 13th instant?

No. 231.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 26.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 23, 1893.

BARLEY Concession.

Your Lordship's telegram No. 18. Foreign Representatives, with the exception of Count Tattenbach, do not feel any deep interest in the continuation of the Concession, and would not, I am convinced, join in any representation without special instructions from their Governments. They naturally desire to keep their intervention in reserve for more important questions.

I propose, however, to talk over the matter with the German and Italian Ministers, and to ascertain their feelings.

No. 232.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 27.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Tangier, April 23, 1893.

MACLEOD reports a case of alleged insult to British subjects travelling in Fez.

They seem to have arrived unexpectedly, and to have experienced difficulty and delay in obtaining lodgings. The facts as reported to me do not appear to prove premeditated rudeness; but they are somewhat vaguely stated, and I have therefore called for a fuller report.

Two days before this occurrence, a Moor from the country hit a clerk from the Vice-Consulate, whom he met in the street; but this incident had apparently no political significance or connection with the affair of the travellers, and Gharneet has promised reparation.

As a newspaper correspondent is at Fez, I much fear that these occurrences may be reported and exaggerated.

No. 233.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 66.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 15, 1893.

I HAVE not failed, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions, dated the 18th January last, to devote my attention to the claims of British subjects against the Moorish Government. The matter is one of extreme complexity, and demands prolonged study; but at the outset I found myself confronted with a small, but not unimportant, subsidiary question, and I should be glad to know that the action I have taken regarding it meets with your Lordship's approval.

This question arises from the fact that Cid Boobeker El Ganjaur has advanced to the Legation 675 dol. 10 r.v. in cash and a bill for 1,114 dollars on account of British claims.

In 1885-86 the Legation received from the Moorish Government a total sum of 14,243 dollars in payment of British claims. It would appear that the Government in sending this sum did not give an exhaustive statement of the claims to the settlement of which it was to be devoted. Sir John Hay paid 10,321 dol. 10 r.v. on account of the specified claims, as shown in the inclosed account drawn up at the time by Mr. White, and later Sir William Kirby Green made a payment to Messrs. Murdoch, Butler, and

Co., which received the assent of the Moorish authorities. Several attempts were fruitlessly made by this Legation to obtain from the Shereefian Government a list of the remaining claims on account of which the balance, 2,790 dol. 10 r.v., had been paid to the Legation, and eventually Sir John Hay compounded, for the amount of 2,789 dol. 10 r.v., three claims of the justice of which he was convinced, though they had not been admitted by the Moorish authorities. Attempts were then unsuccessfully made to induce the Moorish Government to admit these three claims and to refund the money paid on account of them for other purposes, and at last, on the death of Sir William Kirby Green, Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu succeeded in obtaining payment of 1,000 dollars of the amount, and that amount is still in the custody of the Legation.

When Sir Charles Euan-Smith was at Fez he put pressure, through Cid Boobeker, on the Moorish authorities to make them pay the balance, 1,789 dol. 10 r.v., and Cid Boobeker was so certain that his diplomacy would be successful in obtaining the whole sum, that he offered to advance the remaining 1,789 dol. 10 r.v. This offer was accepted by Sir C. Euan-Smith, and Cid Boobeker accordingly gave to the Legation 675 dol. 10 r.v. in coin and a bill for 1,114 dollars. But from that day to this Cid Boobeker has never recovered any part of the money from the Moorish Government.

It appears to me that the transaction was irregular, and that any such relations with Boobeker are extremely undesirable. I have accordingly refunded Cid Boobeker the cash paid and returned to him his bill, and the amount will remain to be recovered eventually with other claims from the Moorish authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

from Morocco, which was obtained by Count Tattenbach in 1890, and which will expire in October next.

It appears desirable that this privilege should not be suffered to lapse, and I have accordingly to request you to inform the German Government that if the German Minister at Tangier should ask for a renewal of the clauses of the Convention, Her Majesty's Government would be ready to instruct Sir W. Ridgeway to support his colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 239.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 59.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 27, 1893.

I APPROVE your having repaid to Cid Boobekir the sum of 1,789 dols. 50 c., which he had advanced to the British Legation, in connection with certain British claims on the Moorish Government, under the circumstances reported in your despatch No. 66 of the 15th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 240.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received April 28.)

(No. 43.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Rome, April 28, 1893.

THE Italian Government have authorized Signor Cantagalli to dispatch the Italian Secretary of Legation, M. Gentile, to Fez, in order to settle some outstanding business, the details of which have been communicated to Sir West Ridgeway.

I am told that M. Gentile will start in a few days on his mission.

No. 241.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 22, 1893.

WITH reference to rumours current in the English press respecting the Sultan's health, I have the honour to report that I have no information which would lead me to suppose that His Majesty has been seriously ill. It is, however, certain that a few weeks ago he was indisposed for some time, suffering apparently from severe dyspepsia. I hear from a reliable source at Fez that this led to swelling of the lips, and as the Sultan did not like to be seen in this unsightly condition he appeared in public as little as possible. This seclusion was, however, interpreted as a sign of serious illness, and many stories were current in consequence.

On the 18th, Cid Bubeikir and other persons mentioned at the Legation that they had heard the Sultan was ill. I had, however, received a letter that morning from Kaïd Maclean, who made no allusion to the subject, and since that time I have received no communication from him or from the Vice-Consul at Fez respecting the Sultan's health.

This is purely negative evidence, but I think it hard to believe that any serious change would have occurred in His Majesty's condition without my hearing of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

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No. 242.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 69.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 22, 1893.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 45 of the 1st instant approving my action in directing Mr. Macleod to give to the Moorish authorities a list of the persons in his district under British protection, I have the honour to report that on investigating the matter I discovered that among the persons to be protected were Mr. Macleod's landlord, to whom protection had been promised by Sir C. Euan-Smith, and the titular Taleb or scribe of the Vice-Consulate. This latter person did not exercise any of the functions of a scribe, and received protection merely as a return for certain services which he had rendered and is rendering to Her Majesty's Government. It had been proposed to enter the landlord on the list as a second scribe, but as strictly speaking, more than one scribe is an irregularity, I thought it best to allow the landlord to be employed as scribe, and to give the other person a certificate under Article XVI of the Madrid Convention as a return for useful services rendered by him, but on the condition that this certificate is to be enjoyed only so long as he continues to render similar service to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 243.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 70.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 22, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Lordship's information, a Memorandum by Captain the Count Gleichen, attached to this Mission, containing a summary of certain information furnished to him by Cid Bubeikir, who happens to be in Tangier at the present moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Memorandum by Count Gleichen.

CID BUBEKIR communicated yesterday the following to me with regard to French encroachments on the south:—

Taflet.—Sherif Mulai Shhedd, Sheikh of Mdagra (50 miles north of Taflet), left Taflet twenty-five days ago with about fifty other Sherifs (members of the Sherif family), and came to see the Sultan at Fez with reference to what had occurred at Taflet shortly before they left.

It appears that a large caravan (4,000 empty camels), accompanied by a number of tribesmen under French protection and French troops (Algerian Mahommedans)—it is not known whether there were any white officers among them—arrived at Taflet about two months ago, or less, and announced that they wished to open up trade between Taflet and Algeria. They offered the Sultan's brother (one of the chief people there, though holding little authority from the Sultan) 4 dollars per camel to be allowed to trade, hoping to obtain the Sultan's protection by this means if they were successful. The Sultan's brother, however, refused, and the people of Taflet refused to trade with them, threatening to kill any one who did so. The caravan had accordingly to retire, and, when the Sheikh left, was about three days' journey from Taflet.

Thereupon the Tuat people counselled those of Taflet to go and see the Sultan about it, saying: "Go to the Sultan and try. We have been to the Sultan ourselves, but he only told us not to quarrel with the French. Friends of the French are well off—we are poor." The Taflet deputation arrived at Fez about the 3rd April, and the Sheikh came on to Tangier on his way to Mecca, via Gibraltar, Oran, Tunis, Malta [?], and Alexandria. He is now at Gibraltar.

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The last caravan which had come to Tafilet from Mecheria (in Algeria) had been robbed and ill-treated (but recouped by the Sultan on French representations), and this may have been the reason why French troops accompanied this one. The Sheikh was quite certain they were French troops, but did not know how many: they said they had come only to trade, and not to fight. They had come from the direction of Figuig, but had not, apparently, passed through it. Plenty of water on this route. The caravan did not pretend to secrecy in any way.

Figuig.—Two months ago a force of French (Algerian) soldiers entered the Figuig country as if by force, without the consent of the people, and pitched eighteen tents close to Figuig. They remained sixteen days, and then left and pitched their tents on the Wad Saura. The people did not communicate with them at all, but wrote to the Sultan, who wrote to the French Legation about it.

Jenan-bu-Rezg (ceded to France in 1887 on the strength of genuine documents which proved that in former times—before the Treaty of 1845—it belonged to Ottoman territory), which lies half-way between Ain Safra and Figuig, has been fortified. It is a large district, not a village. No further concessions have been made to the French in this direction.

Kenadsa.—The French last year sent emissaries to Kenadsa (88 miles west-south-west of Figuig and two-fifths of the way from Figuig to Tafilet) to make friends with the people, and took some Sherifs there under protection; so that many people became French subjects. Some white French soldiers went there and to Ain Shaïr, and were arrested by the inhabitants. This appears to have been a small exploring party. They were rescued by four Sherifs, who were in consequence taken by M. de la Martinière to Algeria and received formal protection at the hands of the Governor. This occurred about nine months ago. Many of the Kenadsa people are therefore now on the French side—about one-half. De la Martinière about this time tried to get to Tuat, but failed.

Tuat.—The French are said to be building blockhouses on the way from Algeria to Tuat. They have not had any dealings lately with the people of Tidikelt and Tuat, but there is no doubt that they will eventually gain them over by money and barley, as the Tuatis are very poor in money and grain—weak and avaricious.

Gourara.—The French have five jemaa or ksars (groups of villages, each group under a Sheikh) on their side in Gourara, gained over by money and barley.

Attitude of Sultan towards Oases.—Towards all these Oases (Figuig, Tuat, Gourara, Tidikelt, &c.) the Sultan represents himself as the beneficent Monarch, but not as Governor. The people pay him no taxes, but obey him (more or less) through his religious influence.

Since the French have appeared on the scene, the Sultan has been subsidizing (this is doubtful) some tribes with money and supplies; but he appears to withdraw the subsidies on slight provocation.

When large deputations from Tuat, &c., come to him for advice, he says: "Be men and keep out the French, and I will help you." But when the big deputations have withdrawn, he sends for five or six trusted men from among them and tells them that he is really weak, and advises them to keep off the French by kindness and ruses and not to fight, or else he, the Sultan, will be got into trouble.

All these French intrigues, Bubekir thinks, are really for the ultimate purpose of obtaining land between Morocco and the proposed site of the Trans-Saharan Railway, so as to secure its northern and north-western flank, and not for the purpose of encroaching on Morocco itself.

The Sultan keeps on making representations to the French about their constant advance, but they say the country is fair game, as it has not been administered by the Sultan in any way for the last fifteen years, and that they have as much right to explore and annex there as he has.*

There is no doubt that a good deal of French money has found its way into the pockets of high Moorish officials at Court; but these latter only take all they can get, and then curse the givers when their backs are turned.

Tangier, April 22, 1893.

(Signed) GLEICHEN, Captain,
Grenadier Guards.

* Bubekir saw a letter from Count d'Aubigny to this effect.

No. 244.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 71.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 24, 1893.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 28 of this date, I have the honour to submit copy of correspondence, for your Lordship's information, regarding an alleged affront to English travellers in the city of Fez.

On the evening of the 22nd instant I received by special courier, and marked "Urgent," the letter from the Vice-Consul of Fez of the 19th instant. The next morning I replied in my letter of the 23rd instant. In this letter I asked for further information to enable me to decide whether or not the alleged affront was intentional.

In the evening I received a private letter dated the 21st instant from Kaïd H. Maclean, of which I inclose extracts.

I then addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs my letter of to-day, and I have also telegraphed to your Lordship for authority to recall to Tangier the travellers, a military and a militia officer, and two other British subjects, who have by their high-handed conduct jeopardized our improved relations with Morocco. I accept Kaïd Maclean's statement without hesitation, but of course the travellers may have facts, unknown to me, to urge in extenuation of their conduct, but however this may be, I consider that, under the circumstances, the sooner they leave Fez the better.

The case of Mr. Conquy, referred to in my letter to the Moorish Minister, is reported separately in my despatch No. 72 of to-day, and the other case is that of an insane Moorish ex-official. This gentleman was one of the Moorish Commissioners employed in negotiating a Commercial Treaty with Sir John Hay in 1886, and the breakdown of the negotiations is, in some degree, attributed to his having become insane during their progress. His mania has taken a homicidal turn against all Englishmen, and he recently visited Kaïd Maclean's home with the expressed intention of killing him. The Vice-Consul has failed to induce the authorities to take adequate steps for his restraint.

Your Lordship will appreciate the difficulty of the general situation. Though the Moorish Government may not have been guilty of worse than the apathy and indifference habitual to Mahomedan Governments, yet English travellers have, apparently to a great measure by their own doing, been publicly humiliated, and if no notice were taken of this and similar instances of inaction on the part of the Moorish authorities, English prestige would suffer, and fanatics, perhaps the Shereefian Government itself, would begin to think that British subjects might be ill-treated, and British interests neglected with impunity.

I am not satisfied with the discretion shown by the Vice-Consul in this case. His letters betray an irritable feeling, and an inclination to find fault. Mr. Macleod does not appear to have thrown oil on the waters, but he may not be responsible for the undignified and inconsiderate conduct of the travellers in unnecessarily leaving their mules, loaded and without food or water, for about twenty-four hours in the streets of Fez. I assume, that it was intended by this extraordinary proceeding, to fix upon the Shereefian Court pecuniary responsibility for any loss or damage which might indirectly follow their omission to furnish the travellers with lodging on the night of their arrival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 244.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Fez, April 19, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Major du Boulay and Captain Ritchie, accompanied by Mr. John A. Kirby Green, Mr. Crawhall, and Mr. Carleton, arrived here to-day at about noon.

Yesterday I received your Excellency's letter of introduction of Major du Boulay and Captain Ritchie by a messenger whom they had sent on in advance.

As the Moslem feast was being celebrated, I could not see Cid Emfadr Gharneet before the evening. But on visiting him then the Vizir promised me faithfully that he would give a letter at 9 this morning to whomsoever I should send for it, ordering the Governor of Fez to find the necessary accommodation.

I sent a trusty messenger this morning in good time for the letter, but although sought for in every direction, the Vizir could not be found, nor had he left the letter with any of his servants.

I have learned subsequently that it never was written.

On my messenger's return Mr. Carleton went to look for Cid Emfadr Gharneet, but could not find him. He encountered the Vizir accidentally in the street, and he again promised to give the order to whomsoever we should send. To make sure of no mistake occurring Mr. Green and I went ourselves to look for the Vizir, but did not succeed in finding him till about 6 o'clock, when he instructed one of his servants to go for the key of the garden, and another to accompany the party's servants to the garden, and said that they might order their animals round to the garden.

What passed subsequently is narrated in the letters of the members of the party which I inclose herewith.

I have examined the men-servants, and taken notes of their statements.

It appears that Cid Gharneet, on admittance being denied by the Kaïd of Infantry occupying the garden, sent to the Minister of War asking the latter to vacate the premises, but that he (the War Minister) sent three men to order the Kaïd on no account to give up the garden. And so, as it was now late and stormy, and the streets impassable for loaded animals, the travellers were forced to leave all of them with the baggage in the streets and come to me.

I at once addressed a strong letter to the Vizir protesting against his action in the affair, and stating that we should hold the Moorish Government responsible for all losses and damage incurred in consequence of their action.

I inclose herewith a rough draft of this letter, and trust it will meet with your Excellency's approval.

Cid Gharneet's action throughout has been that of the utmost indifference and callous contempt. He made it plainly apparent that it was of absolutely no importance how, when, or where these officers were accommodated, and he took no manner of pains to help us.

There was another empty garden in front of his own, where the party could have been accommodated, when the garden allotted was found to be occupied.

The whole affair could have been avoided simply by the Vizir's keeping his promise, and giving me this morning the order to the Basha.

By the Vizir's conduct the whole party have been put to the greatest inconvenience and public affront. Their animals were kept with their loads on over twelve hours, and without food.

I cannot sufficiently express to your Excellency the contempt, in action, which the whole Court, and particularly Cid Emfadr Gharneet, have been lately showing to us. Our affairs seem to them matters of the utmost indifference.

The occurrence of to-night appears to me to show more conclusively than ever the importance of the new Governor of Fez getting strong instructions as to his relations with us. Were the Court absent he would probably behave in exactly the same manner as the Vizir has done to-day, and we would have no immediate redress.

As the other day a horse was given to Mr. Huyshe on Kaïd Maclean's intervention, it is plain to me that the Vizir's conduct is intended as a slight upon all action issuing from the Vice-Consulate, and to affront me before the Moorish public and other foreigners here.

I need hardly point out that the difficulties in seeing the Vizir are entirely of his own making, his servants being instructed to say he is here or there, and so send callers on useless quests in search of him.

Last night the Vizir informed me that he had talked over Mr. Conquy's case with Kaïd Maclean, and the Government would arrange a settlement. To-day Mr. Conquy is in bed, and his wounded eye is worse.

I believe the Vizir's attitude here again is only to keep shuffling till he will get away from paying any or only a small indemnity.

The party of travellers are going to wait in this neighbourhood pending your Excellency's reply.

The present is sent per special courier, who has engaged to arrive in Tangier on the 22nd instant, and to return in three days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 244.

Mr. J. A. Kirby Green to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Fez, April 19, 1893.

Dear Sir,

ABOUT four days before leaving Tangier for Fez I went to the British Legation to see Sir West Ridgeway, to ask him for a letter to the Moorish authorities for accommodation of a party composed of Major du Boulay, Captain Ritchie, Mr. Carleton, Mr. Crawhall and myself.

Sir West was not at home, so I saw Mr. de Vismes, who told me he had already asked Hadj Muhammed Torres for a letter for Major du Boulay and Captain Ritchie, and as we were all of the same party there was no need of asking for a second letter.

On the morning of the 18th instant I wrote you from Zagota, inclosing a letter for the Acting Governor of Fez and another letter from Sir West Ridgeway to you, in order that there should be sufficient time for the authorities to make arrangements for our accommodation.

Our messenger arrived at Fez yesterday afternoon, and we camped about 4 miles outside of Fez, and arrived there this day at noon. We met our messenger at the gate of Fez with a letter from you saying that you had seen Cid Emfadr Gharneet, who had promised to give you an order to the Basha of Fez at 9 A.M. this morning to procure suitable accommodation.

When we met you, you told us that Cid Gharneet had not yet sent the order for the Basha, so I asked Mr. Carleton, on Major du Boulay's and Captain Ritchie's behalf, to go to the Vizir and ask him for the order.

Mr. Carleton went, and after two hours' searching for the Vizir, returned and said he had met him accidentally and asked him for the order.

The Vizir told Mr. Carleton to send for the order, upon which I went, accompanied by you.

After much searching and waiting we at last saw his Excellency, who said that the garden of Hadj Ibrahim Susy was empty and at our disposal, and asked us to send one of our men to fetch our baggage animals, and another accompanied by one of the Vizir's soldiers to see that we were given possession of the garden.

I returned to fetch the rest of the party, and went with them to the garden.

On our way there we were met by one of our men, who told us that the garden was occupied by some soldiers, and that when our men knocked to get in they were told to go away, upon which our men answered and said that the garden had been allotted to us by the Government. Our men were also accompanied by the Vizir's soldier, who afterwards left them. They knocked again, and the soldiers came out with pistols and sticks and threatened to shoot them if they did not leave immediately.

We then went to the Vizir's house, but were unable to see any one although there were lights in the house.

Having nowhere to take our baggage and animals we left them in the street at the gate of the garden, after having warned two of Cid Emfadr Gharneet's soldiers, who came up at this time, that we should hold them responsible for not enforcing the Vizir's order.

It was about 8:30 P.M., and a thunderstorm coming on, and no accommodation for animals or baggage or for ourselves, so we came down to you.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) JOHN A. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 3 in No. 244.

Major du Boulay to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Dear Sir,

Fes, April 19, 1893.

I WISH to bring to your notice the following treatment to which I have been subjected. On going to take possession of the garden which you kindly informed me had been allotted for my encampment, in compliance with the request contained in the letter brought from the British Legation at Tangier, I found on my arrival there that admission had been denied to my servants, who, together with their pack-mules and my baggage, tents, &c., were still standing in the street. I was informed that there was a Moor in possession who refused to admit us without the Sultan's order. We then proceeded to the Vizir's house, and after knocking at his door repeatedly yet temperately for about five minutes without meeting with any response, we then tried the opposite side of the street, and two of the Vizir's men came out and accompanied us to the garden allotted to us. On our arrival there the Moor in possession came out, but after some conversation we were still refused admission. As no other place was offered to us, and having nowhere to rest for the night, and it being now past 8 P.M., dark, and a thunderstorm coming on, I returned at once to the British Vice-Consulate, where we were most hospitably entertained and lodged.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) DIGBY DU BOULAY, Major.

Dear Mr. Macleod,

April 19, 1893.

I have read the above statement, and I concur in its contents.

Believe me, &c.

(Signed) W. B. RITCHIE, Captain,
9th Battalion Rifle Brigade.

Inclosure 4 in No. 244.

Mr. Carleton to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Sir,

Fes, April 19, 1893.

ON behalf of Major du Boulay and Captain Ritchie I went to Cid Emfadl Gharneet's to-day about 12:30 P.M., to ask for the order to the Basha of Fes to provide our party with accommodation.

I did not find the Vizir, but after much searching met him accidentally in the street, and after compliments, he said: "Tell your friends to send a servant to the Court, and I will give an order for the Basha to provide accommodation for them," and Mr. Green and you went to get this, and were absent about three hours.

I remained with the party during this time, and hearing from them that a garden had been provided I accompanied the party.

On arriving at the garden I was surprised to find all our men and animals in the street, and was informed that the men had been threatened with pistols and sticks if they tried to enter.

We went to Cid Gharneet's, but although we knocked repeatedly and saw lights in his house we got no reply; then Mr. Green and I went to the Vizir's men's house, and two of them came with us to the garden, and I heard them saying to the Kaïd to vacate the place; to which the Kaïd occupying it said he would not do so without the Sultan's order.

It was then 8:30 P.M., and a thunderstorm coming on, and we had no resource but to leave our baggage animals in the street and go to the British Vice-Consulate.

We told the Vizir's soldiers that we should hold them responsible for all the consequences of not giving us the garden.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. P. CARLETON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 244.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

April 19, 1893.

THE English officers who arrived here to-day with letters from the Fekih Cid Muhammed Torres to you, and also with letters from the British Minister, Sir West Ridgeway, to me, went with your servants to a place which you assigned to them for a dwelling; they went there with their animals, and met there some one who opposed them, and prevented their entry. On this account, and owing to their not finding a place to stop at, the said officers left their animals and things in the street against their will. Therefore, if they lose anything, or any of their things is spoiled, the responsibility for this is on the Government. I beg to remind your Excellency that the letter which you promised me for 9 o'clock this morning was called for by my servant, but you [sic] did not find it.

Peace.

Inclosure 6 in No. 244.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Sir,

Tangier, April 23, 1893.

I HAVE to acknowledge receipt of your despatch of the 19th instant, in which you report a misunderstanding which has occurred regarding the accommodation of certain English travellers in the city of Fes.

The facts appear to be as follows. The travellers in question were furnished with letters of introduction to yourself from the Legation, and also with a letter from the Sultan's Representative here to the Governor of Fes. They forwarded their letters to you on the 18th instant, and themselves followed on the next day. Apparently they asked you to find accommodation in the city, and you very properly tried to assist them. This apparently could only be done through the medium of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, but unfortunately you were unable to see him till the evening of the 18th, when his Excellency promised to write a letter next morning to the Governor of Fes to find the necessary accommodation, and this letter, it was arranged, you were to send for and deliver. You sent, but the Minister was not at home, and you did not succeed in finding him till 6 P.M. on the 19th. He then sent one of his servants for the key of a garden (which apparently he supposed to be empty), and another servant to accompany the servants of the travellers to the garden.

When the servants reached the garden they found it occupied by soldiers, who refused them admittance on the ground that they required the Sultan's order.

It is said in Mr. Carleton's letter, but on mere hearsay, that the servants were threatened with pistols and sticks, but you do not notice this assertion, and there appears to be no proof of its accuracy.

When the difficulty was reported to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, he sent to the Minister of War asking him to make the soldiers vacate. But the latter Minister appears to have refused to comply.

As it was now "late and stormy," the travellers came to your house, leaving their baggage in the streets. You immediately addressed a "strong letter" to the Minister protesting against his action, and holding him responsible for any loss which might be sustained. You also, the same night, wrote and sent to me your report, which is under reference. I would remark parenthetically that it would have been better had you waited till the next day before addressing me. You would then have been able to inform me whether the Minister had furnished or offered to furnish the required accommodation when he learned what had occurred.

This consideration must necessarily weigh with me in forming an opinion as to whether the Minister's inaction was intentional or merely accidental.

I shall also require information on the following points:—

1. Do the Moorish Government always find accommodation for travellers, and do they admit the obligation?

Is it not an ordinary occurrence for delay to occur in finding such accommodation for travellers on their arrival? It would appear so from the records of the office.

2. Why was not the letter addressed by the Sultan's Agent here to the Governor delivered to the Governor?

Would it not have been better to have referred to the Governor instead of to the Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding the accommodation?

4. Was not the 19th April (when the party arrived) a day given over to feasting on the close of the Ramadan, when all business is suspended, and a general holiday is observed? If so, would not the fact account for the difficulty in finding the Minister, and for the reluctance of the Minister of War to turn the soldiers out of the garden?

4. Would it not have been better if the travellers had deferred their arrival till another day, or at least till they learned that there was accommodation ready for them?

In asking these questions I am not to be supposed to be prejudging the case, or to be disposed summarily to acquit the Moorish officials of rudeness and indifference. I merely suspend forming an opinion till your somewhat hurriedly-written despatch has been supplemented by further and essential information.

In conclusion, I assure you that I fully appreciate the difficulty of your position, and your strong desire to maintain British prestige in the Moorish capital; but I would impress upon you the necessity of viewing and dealing with delicate questions such as this in a calm and judicial spirit, and of guarding against the tendency—the natural and inevitable tendency—to attribute to unfriendly motives what may be the unintentional laches of apathetic Mahomedan officials.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 244.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Sir,

Tangier, April 24, 1893.

SINCE writing my letter of yesterday to your address I have learned from Kaïd Macleod that on Thursday morning he was sent by the Sultan to express to the travellers in question his regret, and the regret of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the omission to furnish them with accommodation on the previous night, and to offer them suitable accommodation. His Majesty seems also to have promised to punish the men who had been uncivil, and to replace anything that might be missing in the luggage. It was further explained that they had arrived on the Feast of Baïram.

I am much surprised to learn that this courteous offer was refused, and I am of opinion that, under the circumstances, the continued stay of these gentlemen in Fez will jeopardize the friendly relations between Her Majesty's and the Moorish Government, and, consequently, I have to desire you to communicate to them my desire, as representing Her Majesty's Government, that they should leave Fez and return to Tangier with as little delay as possible.

I have further to request you to deliver, or send by safe hand, to the Minister Cid Gharneet the inclosed letter.

I refrain from any further comments on this unfortunate affair till I have received from you a reply to my despatch of yesterday.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 244.

Sir West Ridgeway to Cid Emfadl Gharneet.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

Tangier, 6th Shawal, 1310 (April 24, 1893).

IT has been reported to me from Fez that certain English travellers who arrived in that city at noon on the 19th, were put to great inconvenience through the omission of the responsible authorities to provide them with lodging, as is usual in the case of all European travellers. The mules of the travellers were obliged to remain all night in the streets loaded, and without food.

I am aware that the day on which the travellers arrived was a day given over to feasting, and that all offices were closed, and to this I am sure the oversight is due. I am certain that the Shereefian Court would not depart from its hospitable traditions, and I fully appreciate that the following day everything possible was done through the medium of Kaïd Harry Macleod to repair the omission. If the travellers did not then accept the offer of lodging kindly made by His Shereefian Majesty, it was, I suppose, because in the meantime they had found the necessary accommodation for themselves.

Nevertheless, the incident was unfortunate. It is sure to be twisted by those who do not desire that there should be peace and harmony between the two Governments into a proof that English travellers are not treated with the same civility and consideration as those of other nations. Indeed, I notice that a foreign newspaper has already taken this line. There are other cases of this kind which I would bring to your Excellency's notice. There is the case of Mr. Conquy, a British subject, who was recently seriously assaulted in the streets of Fez, and whose assailant has escaped without detection or punishment; and there is the case of the lunatic Hamed Bennani, who goes about armed, threatening the lives of Englishmen, and for whose restraint no adequate steps appear to have been taken.

I do not believe that these acts of omission are due to any unfriendly feelings, for why should the Shereefian Court lightly throw away the friendship of so powerful a nation?

Therefore I write these friendly words, warning your Excellency of the necessity of prompt and friendly action in these and all similar cases.

Peace.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 9 in No. 244.

Kaïd Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

Tangier, April 20, 1893.

JOHN GREEN, Carleton, two officers, and an artist, arrived from Tangier yesterday evening at about 6 o'clock. They sent on their letters to Macleod, to get them a house or some place to pitch their tents. Macleod saw Cid Foudal, who promised him a house for them, but he did not see any house or garden, or get a key. When they arrived they found the garden they were told to go to occupied, and, as the man is a Colonel of Askars, he refused to turn out at that time of night without an order from the Sultan. They all went away, and took their men, and left their animals with their loads on their backs in the lane, telling two of the men belonging to Cid Foudal that the animals and things were on their heads.

I was sent for this morning, and told by Cid Foudal to go to these gentlemen from the Sultan, and tell them he and Cid Foudal were very sorry the garden was not ready when they arrived; that they could have it now, and another garden besides; that the men who had been uncivil should be punished; that if anything was found missing it should be made good to them, and to tell them it was their feast, and the town was very full, and to do all I could to please them and to set matters right.

I told Cid Foudal I thought it a great shame to treat Europeans in this way, and that they should always have a certain number of houses ready for visitors, and that I am sure you would be very displeased. As the Sultan ordered me to go I would do my best.

I went with Cid Foudal's headman to see these gentlemen, and told them it was not premeditated, but was just the horrid usual way of doing things here. The Major said he would not touch the animals, or go into the garden or any house, and after I spoke to him again, he said he wanted it all down in writing. I told him I thought it a shame to leave the poor animals with their loads on, without water or food, and asked him to give me some of his men to go with my men to look after the animals. He said he would not send his men, but asked me to send mine, and I promised to do so.

I then returned to Cid Foudal and told him the Major wanted it all down in writing. Cid Foudal said we must go to the Sultan first. I went away to get some lunch and tell my men to go and water, feed, and take the loads off the mules. They

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all begged me not to send them, and told me, if they went, the men in charge would be sure to steal and say my men had done it, and so the mules were left.

Cid Foudal wrote a long letter to the Sultan when we got to the Court, and sent it in, and the Sultan sent word for us to go into his garden. Cid Foudal saw the Sultan, and told me the Sultan said I was known and that my word could be trusted, and that was why he had sent me, and to go to them again and tell them so, and to find out what they wanted, and Cid Foudal said he was afraid they wanted to make a quarrel, and what had their poor animals done that they should not take their loads off and feed them.

I went down again and found only Carleton. I asked him to give me the men and I should go myself and have all their things put in the garden and their tents pitched for them and everything ready. Carleton said he could not tell the men to go. I waited until past 6 o'clock, and, as they did not come, I told Carleton I would go and work with my men, and for him to come on as soon as he could, and I went back and told the Fkih Ci Fondl. He said: "It is late, and they will not like to come through the town at night. There is a good garden near Macleod's house. Here is the key. Go down, look at the garden and rooms, and then tell them you have brought the garden to them as they would not go to the garden."

He also gave me ten soldiers from the Basha to take care of their things going through the town, and told me to let them have all my men, but not to take the things down until I got their men. So I went all back again, found the garden much better than the one up here, and with some good rooms in it, and then I went on to see them. The Major said he would not go anywhere or look after the mules until he received instructions from you. So I had to go back to Cid Foudal, who sent a message to the Sultan, and I have been ordered to write and tell you all this.

I think these gentlemen have been treated badly, but not worse than all the other Christians that come here, and I am sure nothing was premeditated. I think they acted wrong in leaving their animals, and also in not accepting the Sultan's offer to make amends. I believe you are anxious to get along smoothly, and do all I can towards this end.

No. 245.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 72.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 24, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a correspondence between me and the Vice-Consul at Fez, relative to an assault committed on a clerk—apparently a trading not a Vice-Consulate clerk—in his employ.

I have mentioned the matter in my letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, which formed one of the inclosures to my despatch No. 71 of this date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 245.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Fez, April 17, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a disturbance of a somewhat serious nature occurred in this city on the night of the 26th (27th) Ramadan, corresponding to the 14th (15th) April.

As is usual on that evening the population were all in feast, and at the Mosques. The gates of the various quarters were open, and so were most of the shops, and, at the same time, there were no guards on duty, nor were any precautions whatever taken by the Government to preserve order.

About 11 P.M. a band of men, composed chiefly of slaves belonging to sundry Court personages, and also a few tribesmen from the south-east, came down from New Fez, and, armed with clubs and heavy sticks, looted a number of shops in the districts known as "Bab Sinsla," "Habts al Kais," "Schraableecen," and "Bleedah."

The general method was to extinguish the light in the shops by a blow from a stick, and then to seize in the darkness as much as could be carried away. In many instances the shopkeepers in defending their property were severely beaten.

The damage caused by breakages, &c., is said to amount to even more than that actually stolen.

About six or seven of the thieves who were looting in the "Schraableecen" quarter were overpowered by the populace, and are now in prison.

My cook and his wife were in the streets when the disturbance occurred, and one of the thieves attempted to possess himself of the woman's silver bracelets, but was stopped by the husband, and also by one of the thieves calling out that the man was a servant of a Christian.

It was most fortunate that no Europeans were in the streets at the time, as the consequences might have been very serious.

This morning my clerk, Mr. Samuel Conquy, a Gibraltar, while on his way to my office, was struck a severe blow on the eye by a Moor whom he met in the street between "Bab-el-Hodeed" and the "Tallah," not very far from Kaïd Maclean's. The Moor was evidently a groom of some person's connected with the Court, and was riding a mule barebacked, save for a Telees carpet.

Suddenly, on nearing Mr. Conquy, the man lifted his stick and struck him across the right eye and temple, and before Mr. Conquy could recover from the stunning effect of the blow, he was gone.

Unfortunately, there were no witnesses present. Yesterday a poor Jewess was struck on the face by an Askar, and 20 dollars compensation was paid to her by Cid Muhamed Serrare to avoid complaints.

I called at Cid Emfadl Gharnit's to complain about Mr. Conquy's affair, but did not succeed in seeing the Vizir; so in the afternoon I sent Mr. Conquy to the Court to show Cid Emfadl his wound, and to say that I would call upon him later on.

In the morning, therefore, I called at the Vizir's and asked him what the Government proposed to do in the way of settlement.

The Vizir answered that he had sent orders to the Basha to search for the culprit, who, when found, would be properly punished.

I replied that while this was necessary, no doubt, yet the chances of the real man being caught were extremely small, and that whether caught or not I thought the Moorish Government should propose some indemnity to Mr. Conquy, and if a satisfactory amount were offered I would do my best to get your Excellency to accept the arrangement.

I pointed out the inoffensive, quiet character of Mr. Conquy, and the Vizir readily admitted that, as also the wholly unprovoked nature of the assault, which he also conceded. The Vizir at first demurred slightly to an indemnity being paid.

I then reminded Cid Emfadl that such an assault could hardly have been committed by any Fez men, but only by one of the men connected with the Court, as the Fez people were only valiant in the way of cursing, scowling, and spitting, and such offences as could not be easily brought home to them. To this the Vizir also assented, and said that if to-morrow were not the feast-day, he would consult the Sultan and let me know His Majesty's pleasure at noon to-morrow.

The Vizir throughout showed that he felt he had no sort of defence to offer, and his usual ingenuity in raising difficulties seemed to have quite deserted him.

I talked over the matter with Kaïd Maclean, and we both agreed in thinking that, providing Mr. Conquy's sight should prove uninjured, 200 dollars was the minimum we should accept as compensation for the assault. But, of course, I have carefully refrained from quoting any sum to Cid Emfadl Gharnit.

Kaïd Maclean further agreed with me in thinking that, during the last two or three months, there has been an increasing hostility to all the English in this city; and that it is highly necessary that a severe example should be made in such a case as Mr. Conquy's, if the persons and property of British subjects here are to be respected.

Should it meet with your Excellency's approbation, I should be glad to have, at the earliest possible moment, a strong letter to Cid Emfadl Gharnit, on the above case, and also on the danger to public safety in the Government's apathy and want of precaution as evinced in the disturbance of Friday night last.

I may point out in that connection that, although the town to-night is full of tribesmen who have come in for the Feast, no additional measures are being taken to prevent any recurrence of Friday's affair.

Should I receive, in writing, any reasonable offer in Mr. Conquy's case, I will send your Excellency a special courier to arrive in Tangier on Friday at noon, so as to permit of the answer coming by the post leaving Tangier on Friday afternoon. This post might, if necessary, be instructed to come up in three days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 245.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Tangier, April 23, 1893.
Sir, I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant regarding an assault on Mr. Conquy, a clerk in the office apparently of your firm. I have learnt of this occurrence with regret, and you should press the Moorish authorities to take all necessary steps for the detection and punishment of the offender.

I observe that, in your later despatch of the 19th instant, you state that the Minister has informed you that a settlement might be effected apparently with Mr. Conquy. I have no objection to a private arrangement being made with Mr. Conquy by the Shereefian authorities as regards the injuries sustained by him; but it might be wise of him to accept a smaller sum than 200 dollars, unless he has received permanent or very serious injury.

No demand for an indemnity should, however, be officially made without further reference to me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 246.

Mr. Trench to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 92.)
My Lord,

Berlin, April 28, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 101 of the 26th instant, respecting the renewal of the concession for the export of wheat and barley from Morocco. I have this day addressed a note to the Acting Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the terms of your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. LE POER TRENCH.

No. 247.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 61.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, May 4, 1893.

I APPROVE the despatch which you addressed to Mr. Vice-Consul McLeod respecting the assault committed on Mr. Conquy, and of which a copy accompanied your despatch No. 72 of the 24th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 248.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 33.)

Tangier, May 5, 1893.

(Telegraphic.) P.

I HAVE received a letter from Kaïd Maclean at Fez, stating that the Sultan's health is excellent.

No. 249.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 73. Very Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, April 28, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 65, and of subsequent telegraphic correspondence, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 25th instant I had a conversation with the German Minister on the subject of the concession authorizing the export of wheat and barley. I told Count Tattenbach that reflection strengthened my opinion that it would be a great pity to allow the concession to expire without an attempt to obtain its renewal, and I asked whether he thought that a representation by the various Ministers to the Sultan would be useful, and, if useful, possible.

Count Tattenbach did not appear to be sanguine as to the possibility of such action, but he would not commit himself before receiving instructions from his Government.

I next asked his Excellency's opinions whether the approaching visit of M. Gentile, the Dragoman of the Italian Legation to Fez, might not be utilized for the purpose of sounding the Sultan as to his willingness to continue the concession. Count Tattenbach fully agreed that this might be done, though he would have opposed the employment of M. Gentile as a negotiator on behalf of his Government.

I next called on M. Cantagalli, who had previously offered to me the services of M. Gentile during his visit to Fez. M. Cantagalli informed me that the object of M. Gentile's deputation was in connection with the Arms Factory under Colonel Bregoli's management at Fez and the man-of-war now under construction for the Moorish Government in an Italian dockyard.

M. Cantagalli renewed his offer of M. Gentile's assistance, and said that he was ready to commission him to speak plainly to the Sultan regarding his attitude to England. While thanking his Excellency for his kindness, I assured him that, fortunately, there was no occasion whatever for such intervention, that I had no cause of complaint against the Sultan, but, on the contrary, that our relations were, and I hoped would continue to be, quite friendly.

I gave M. Cantagalli the true version of the story of the alleged ill-treatment of British travellers, of which he had heard an exaggerated account. In conclusion, I suggested that possibly M. Cantagalli might think it desirable to instruct M. Gentile to sound the Sultan as to his intention as regards the Tattenbach concession, for, I added, it would be convenient to obtain some information under this head before we considered whether or not to take any diplomatic action in the matter. To this M. Cantagalli readily agreed. M. Gentile leaves for Fez in about a week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 250.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord,

Tangier, April 28, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a private letter of Kaïd Maclean's respecting the Sultan's movements and other matters. In another letter he says he hears the French have appeared at eighteen different places in Figuig and Tuat, but I think this information should be received with caution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 250.

Kaïd Maclean to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Extract.)

Fez, April 24, 1893.

THE Sultan's tent was pitched outside the town to-day on the Taflelt side of the town. A lot of the M'hindees have left to try and find a suitable road from here to

Taflelt for an army. Ameens have gone with them with Royal letters to buy barley, &c., for the different encampments, if they can, and if the M'hindees find a road that will do. Si M. Seerear, Minister of War, is going shortly to Larache to inspect and count the troops there. I am sure the Sultan will not leave this at present; he has sent nothing to Morocco which looks as if he means to return here after the expedition.

Someone from Tangier sent a box of sample rifles to the Court. I was told to inspect them with the Italian Colonel and we had to reject them all.

No. 251.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 76.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 1, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 71 of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to submit copies of further correspondence between myself and the Vice-Consul at Fez regarding the recent misunderstanding in connection with the accommodation of a party of travellers at that place.

So far as I can judge from the material at present before me, I am of opinion that Mr. Macleod's action in demanding an indemnity was not only unauthorized but unjustifiable. If any loss was sustained it was through the unexplained action of the travellers themselves.

I have, in my despatch No. 61 of the 7th ultimo, expressed my opinion and submitted suggestions on the general question of the exaction of pecuniary compensation from the Moorish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 251.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Fez, April 23, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have received from Cid Emfadr Gharneet through Kaïd Maclean the inclosed letter of apology for the discourtesy shown to Major Du Boulay and Captain Ritchie and party.

The Moorish Government denies that it has any right to compensate the muleteers or others who left their property in the streets, and from the nature of the spot the party might have unloaded their mules within 100 yards of the disputed garden, and left their servants in charge; and so in this view I agree with the Moorish authorities. Otherwise one might have foreigners coming here, and if any hitch occurred in lodging them they could desert their effects and make all sorts of statements as to its disappearance.

Nevertheless, the Moorish Government has agreed to make a present to the party for the amount of any property damaged, missing, or animals injured, not as a right but as a tangible expression of good-will, and a suitable garden has been placed at their disposal.

I will therefore not deliver any letters that your Excellency may send on this matter until I have heard your views upon the foregoing arrangement.

The point I insisted upon as a *sine quâ non* of settlement was that I should have a written apology, which could not be disavowed afterwards by the Moorish Government.

I also insisted that the Moorish Government should have no dealings with the party except through me.

This the Government did their utmost to avoid, and sent Kaïd Maclean twice to smooth matters directly with them verbally.

The day after the occurrence on two occasions Cid Emfadr Gharneet sent to see me, and I refused to go owing to the rude manner in which the Vizier's servants treated me in making the request. This I have since explained to the Vizier to his complete satisfaction.

The whole incident I will consider at an end so far as regards the travellers when the promised present is made. They will then have nothing left unredressed. Major

Du Boulay and Captain Ritchie have always said they would accept no monetary reparation directly or indirectly. But as regards the official part of the question I have to draw your Excellency's attention to the improper manner in which the letter of apology is addressed, which is: "To the esteemed gentleman merchant Macleod," and not as it should be in some official phrase mentioning me as Vice-Consul.

I am informed that this point was discussed at the Court, and that the above words were used deliberately in order to mark unmistakably that the Moorish Government did not recognize the Vice-Consulate.

It was with the strongest protest that I accepted this letter at all, but my reason for doing so was that my doing so afforded a satisfactory solution of the travellers' question; and that as the Moorish Government have now definitely, in writing, given us a certain case against themselves in not addressing me properly, and as the point referred to raises prominently the whole question of the right of all the European nations to be represented officially here, it was essential that it should be left for your Excellency's action or opinion.

The Moorish Government have now practically declined to recognize me, and yet they are pressing for my answer to Cid Emfadr Gharneet's letter releasing them from further responsibility and in settlement of the complaint, and I understand that they would have considered my acquaintance* as binding upon your Excellency, and, therefore, I beg to ask your Excellency for instructions as to my answer to the Vizir.

And, should it suit your Excellency's wishes, I would be glad to have a letter to Cid Emfadr Gharneet asking the Vizir to furnish me with an open letter to the Governor of Fez, and the Governors of New Fez districts, to attend to me officially. Otherwise I do not see how constant friction is to be avoided, particularly when the Court leaves Fez, and I cannot arrange matters informally with Cid Gharneet. In despatch, Private, of the 18th February, I said that so long as they did what I wanted, what they called me (in conversation) was immaterial. My impression then was that the Sultan had accepted this Vice-Consulate, without demur, in an interview with Sir Charles-Euan Smith, but now the Court has put it differently, and considers that anything whatever they do with me is only as a private friend of theirs.

Regarding the letter of apology I would point out (a) that the first part is evidently intended to fit in exactly with some report previously sent to Tangier by the Court on this matter; (b) that no mention is made of the fact that I had been to the Vizir's on that subject the night before the party arrived; (c) that we all had been looking for him all that day; and (d), it states that the garden was allotted at the request of Mr. Green. This is not true—as it was suggested by me as a suitable place, and I accompanied Mr. Green to hear what the Vizir had to say upon another affair of his, as well as the accommodation.

In the meantime I am postponing visiting the Basha, as directed in despatch No. 19, until I hear further from your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MACLEOD.

P.S.—I should say that I have been considerably and valuably assisted by M. Hunot in this affair, and he agrees with me in thinking it was safer, under the circumstances, to accept the improperly addressed apology, in order that your Excellency might be left as free a hand as possible in dealing with the larger question raised by it.

J. M. M.

Inclosure 2 in No 251.

Cid Emfadr Gharneet to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Fez, April 24, 1893.

(Translation.)

To our friend the Cavalier, the merchant Macleod,

AFTER inquiry after you, I have to inform you as to your inquiry regarding the disturbance which occurred at the garden of Wild-el-Hadj Ibrahim Essussi Berroh, which the son of the late Minister asked to stop at, with some Englishmen accompanying him; that the Governor of Fez when he sent for the said person and ordered

* *Qy.* acquiescence.
† *Vide* Sir C. Euan-Smith to the Marquis of Salisbury (Telegraphic), July 29, 1892, published in Blue Book.

him to vacate it for them, he replied that the garden was unoccupied, and permitted him to send them there; and neither the owner of the garden nor the Governor of Fez knew that an Agha of Askars was lodged there, because there was a general permission from the owner of the garden that any distinguished person might lodge there who might desire to do so; this he did out of his kindness. And the reason why no inquiry was made about it, as to whether it was occupied or empty, was the shortness of the time, for this took place after Asha, and the lodging of them in haste, was a mark of consideration to them. Such a disturbance as this which takes place intentionally, causes us regret and impresses us painfully, because you might imagine that this is contrary to the friendship existing between the two Governments. This is not so, and for this reason it is necessary that we should receive notice from Tangier, from those who wish to come here, about seven or eight days before their arrival, so that a place of lodging may be provided for them immediately.

Finished 5 Shawal, 1310.

Inclosure 3 in No. 251.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Sir, *Tangier, April 28, 1893.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant.

Its contents have caused me much regret and surprise. It is very unfortunate that you should have taken upon yourself to impose terms upon the Moorish Government in a matter which had been referred to Her Majesty's Minister, and which was quite beyond your competence as Vice-Consul.

I do not desire to prejudge the matter, but so far as I am informed by your despatches there is no cause for complaint against the Moorish Government. There appears to have been some delay and apathy in furnishing the travellers with lodging on the night of their arrival, but I have yet to learn that it is in any way obligatory on the Sultan to supply private individuals with accommodation; and the apparent want of courtesy appears to have been fully atoned for by the apology which His Majesty made through Kaïd Maclean, and by his offer to furnish the required accommodation the day after their arrival.

You had no right to demand an apology from the Moorish Government, much less any pecuniary compensation, and if the latter has been paid it must be recouped to the Government.

I cannot believe that you have really carried out your intention of detaining letters which I have sent you for delivery to the Moorish Government, and accordingly I shall make no comments on the passage in your letter on that subject till I learn—as I hope will be the case—that on reflection you departed from this ill-advised determination.

If unfortunately my anticipation has not been realized, you should at once deliver my letter. If compensation has been actually paid, you should inform the Minister that I have great doubts whether the matter is one which requires the grant of compensation and have asked for further information, and that, pending my decision, you think it best to refund the money paid.

After you have discharged this duty—which I regret to have to impose upon you—you should strictly confine yourself to the routine matters, if any such arise, connected with your Vice-Consulate, and you should carefully refrain from intervening in any political question without express authority from me.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 252.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 10, 1893.*

THE Marquis de Potestad Fernari complained to-day of the robberies and violence committed by the Moors on the garrisons of Ceuta and Melilla. He suggested it might be advantageous to make reprisals by raiding on Moorish territory.

I deprecated any such action very strongly, and said I feared the French might follow the example set. The Spanish Minister said he had merely thrown out a suggestion, but I cannot help thinking the project is seriously harboured.

No. 253.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, May 11, 1893, noon.*
ROBBERIES at Ceuta and Melilla.

[Repeats Sir W. Ridgeway's telegram No. 35 of the 10th May.]

We share Sir W. Ridgeway's view that any action of the kind hinted at by Spanish Minister would create a dangerous precedent.

No. 254.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Tangier, May 11, 1893.*
I HAVE to-day received 10,000l. for the Cape Juby indemnity, and will dispatch it by bag.

No. 255.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 62. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 11, 1893.*
I APPROVE your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 73, Very Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, respecting the prolongation of the permission for the export of wheat and barley obtained by Count Tattenbach.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 256.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 63.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 11, 1893.*
I HAVE received your despatch No. 76 of the 1st May, inclosing copies of further correspondence with Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod respecting the recent misunderstanding in connection with the accommodation of a party of English travellers at Fez. Your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 257.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Madrid, May 12, 1893.*
MOROCCO. I had some difficulty in seeing the Minister of State, to whom I communicated the contents of your Lordship's telegram No. 14. He said in reply
[731] 2 P

that the Government would only act on the defensive without indulging in raids; but if further military acts were required, they would only be undertaken in concert with Her Majesty's Government.

No. 258.

Foreign Office to North-West African Company.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 12, 1893.*
WITH reference to your letter of the 13th ultimo, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to state, for the information of your Directors, that Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier reports by telegraph to-day that the Cape Jubly indemnity instalment has been paid, and that he will transmit it home by the next bag.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. V. LISTER.

No. 259.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 13)

(No. 77.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 4, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the answer returned by Cid Emfadl Gharneet to my note urging the desirability of permitting free "cabotage" in wheat and barley, a copy of which was inclosed in my despatch No. 56 of the 25th March, 1893.

A similar, if not absolutely identical, communication has been received by the French Minister.

Your Lordship will observe that besides promising to send an official to sell grain to the inhabitants of Tangier and Tetuan, should it prove necessary, the Sultan allows each Legation to import 500 fanegas of wheat annually free of duty. I have not, however, as yet availed myself of this permission, and do not at present propose to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 259.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

28 Ramadan, 1310.

I HAVE received the letter which you addressed to His Shereefian Majesty, saying that the inhabitants of Tangier, both foreigners and others, had addressed themselves lately to the Representatives of the Powers regarding the scarcity of wheat and barley at the said port and at Tetuan, and their high prices for the poor of these places, although at other ports these grains are both plentiful and cheap, and that when this had occurred (in former times) at Tangier and at Tetuan, the Sultan had allowed the said grains to be exported to them from the ports of the coast in consideration of a security deposited by the exporter with the Oomana of the port of exportation until the grain exported reached the port of its destination, when he was allowed to recover the amount of his security. And you asked that the exportation of these grains to the two said ports should be allowed, as the occasion for that has recurred.

His Majesty has understood all that you stated in your letter, and has commanded me to answer you that your statement that this has been permitted before is correct; but that the exportation led to a scarcity and high prices of the grains at the ports whence it was exported. At the present moment, high prices prevail generally over the whole country, and the export of it from port to port would produce distress among the inhabitants of the ports of exportation through the consequent scarcity and extreme rise of prices, and the result would be like "washing blood in blood."

Therefore, His Majesty had made an arrangement for the people of Tangier and Tetuan which will avoid any distress among them on this ground. This arrangement is, that the Naib Hadj Mohammed Torres is to write to the Oomana of Dar-al-Baida

and Mazagan to send a sufficient quantity of the grains to Tangier and Tetuan, with an agent of their own to sell it there to the people in the name of the Government, and he has issued his Shereefian order to the said Naib to write to them to send it whenever the necessity arises at the two said ports, and he has also written to the said Oomana to hasten to send it whenever he (Torres) writes to them for it. His Majesty has also issued to the Governor of Tetuan similar orders to those issued to the said Naib. The French Minister also wrote, previous to our receipt of your letter, requesting the permission for the exportation of the said grains to Tangier and Tetuan, and he was answered in the above sense, and His Majesty has renewed his orders to the said authorities in that sense, ordering that a quantity of wheat and barley be sent to Tangier and Tetuan for sale, and he has ordered the Oomana of Dar-al-Baida to permit each one of the foreign Representatives at Tangier to export 500 fanegas of wheat to Tangier once a-year for their subsistence, free of duty. The Shereefian letters in this sense have been sent to the Naib Cid Hadj Mohammed Torres through the French Minister. Peace.

(Signed) MOHAMMED EL MUFADDAL BEN
MOHAMMED GHARNEET.

No. 260.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 79.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 8, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 76 of 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, copy of a letter which I have received from Cid Emfadl Gharneet, in reply to my communication of 24th ultimo, which formed an inclosure of my despatch No. 71 of the 24th ultimo regarding an alleged affront to British travellers.

I have seen the travellers since their return to Tangier, and they have little to add to the facts already known beyond the statement, that the Sultan's Minister objected to their camping outside the city while they were waiting for the accommodation promised. They further stated that they placed themselves in the hands of the Vice-Consul, and followed his advice in all matters.

I am awaiting further information from Mr. McLeod, more particularly as to whether the travellers acted by his advice, regarding which I have doubts, in deserting their mules in the streets of Fez. On receipt of this information, I shall be in a position to form a definite opinion as to the responsibility attaching to the Vice-Consul. The money claimed as compensation from the Moorish Government has been refunded to it, and the incident, so far as it concerns our relations with the Sultan, may be considered as satisfactorily closed. The Shereefian Government have now positive proof that the allegations made to them by unfriendly persons that England desires to seek a quarrel with Morocco are untrue, and in this way the incident has had good results.

Indeed, I am in a position to report that the attitude of the Moorish Court towards this Legation is satisfactory. The communications I have made to it on various current questions have been replied to with unusual promptitude, and, on the whole, in a reasonable spirit. I propose to acknowledge this change of policy in a letter to the Minister, of which I will inclose copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Cid Emfadl Gharneet to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Translation.)

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received your letter, saying that you had heard that some English travellers arrived at Fez on the date which you named, and that trouble had been caused them by the failure of those responsible to give them a place to lodge in, and that their mules had remained in the streets loaded, and that the day on which the travellers entered Fez was the day of the holy season, on which there is feasting and

rejoicing, and all places are closed on that account. And that on this account they experienced delay in being lodged, and that you are convinced that the Government does not approve of this, and will not abandon its traditions in the matter of hospitality, and also that you had learnt that the Government saw after those travellers through Kaïd Maclean, and allayed their feelings, and that Conging, a British subject, was brutally attacked in the streets of Fez, and that his assailant escaped undiscovered, and that the madman, Hadj Hamed Bennain, walks about the streets of Fez armed, and threatens the lives of Englishmen, and is not restrained from doing this. You suggest that these cases should be settled in a friendly manner.

I have communicated your letter to the Sultan, and His Majesty has understood all that you say therein, and has commanded me to reply to you that the affair of the travellers has been explained to you by Kaïd Maclean, and that his explanation is sufficient, and that they were attended to through him in a manner which calmed their excitement and removed their angry feelings, and that they left this place in a reconciled frame of mind. And that your expression to the effect that the Government does not approve of this, and will not abandon its traditions in the matter of hospitality, is quite correct. The Government has the greatest consideration for all foreign travellers who come here, and more particularly for subjects of a friendly nation like yours. And that a full inquiry has been made as to the person who assaulted Conging, but he has not been found, because the place where this happened is an empty space. And the Governor of Fez has been instructed to settle this affair amicably in accordance with your suggestion. And that when the madman, Hadj Hamed Bennain, acted in that manner, before the receipt of your letter, the Sultan ordered the Governor of Fez to summon his relations into his presence, and order them to confine him to his house, and place a guard over him, to prevent him from going out, and to warn them that if he left his house the Government will send him to the Moristan, the place of mad people. He has not been sent there in the first instance, in consideration of his being one of the great of the place.

Finished 13 Shawal, 1310 (30th April, 1893).

(Signed) MOHAMMED EL MUFADDAL BEN
MAHOMMED GHARNEET.

No. 261.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord,

Tangier, May 8, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with instructions received from your Lordship, I propose to leave Tangier on or about the 12th instant by s.s. "Le Meuse" on a tour of inspection of the various Vice-Consulates on the coast, but in view more especially of being in a position to report on the claims of British subjects against the Morocco Government. I shall be accompanied by Mr. Consul White and Count Gleichen. The Austrian Minister has kindly lent me the services of Mr. Isaac Abensur as interpreter, for Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu cannot be spared from Tangier at present. Mr. Abensur is a British protégé, and son of a former interpreter of this Legation, and was strongly recommended to me by Sir John Drummond Hay.

Mr. Eliot will remain in charge of the current work of the Legation, and I have instructed him in case of necessity to communicate directly with your Lordship.

Mr. de Vismes de Ponthieu will act for Mr. White.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 262.

Intelligence Division to Foreign Office.

(Confidential.)

THE Director of Military Intelligence presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and begs to forward, for Lord Rosebery's information, notes by Captain Count Gleichen of a conversation with the French Minister at Morocco, which, it will be observed, bears to some extent on the Memorandum

by the same officer, dated the 22nd April, forwarded to the Foreign Office by Sir West Ridgeway.

The strength of the French troops along the West Algerian frontier appears to be considerably understated. Though it is impossible, owing to unpublished movements, even to approximate to the exact strength, General Chapman is convinced that there are at least 3,000, and probably many more, French troops within striking distance of the Morocco frontier.

General Chapman is not inclined to attach much importance to the information communicated by Cid Bublikir. Much, if not all, seems to have been derived from hearsay, and to be considerably exaggerated. The statement as to a French force having entered the Figuig district and camped there, apparently refers to certain manoeuvres which took place last October in the neighbourhood of Aïn-Sefra, and of which an account is now being published in the "Revue du Cercle Militaire." The force engaged consisted, according to that periodical, of two battalions of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry, and a mountain battery, which of itself seems to disprove the French Minister's statement, as reported by Captain Count Gleichen, as to the number of troops in that region.

Intelligence Division, 18, Queen Anne's Gate, London,
May 16, 1893.

Inclosure in No. 262.

Notes on Conversation with the French Minister.

(Confidential.)

HE said that France had no intention whatever of encroaching on Moorish territory, and denied with some indignation that she had any ultimate intentions on Figuig or Tafilet.

That all her aims were directed to acquiring Tuat, Tidikelt, and Gourara, not for the purpose of protecting a Trans-Saharan railway—which he for one did not believe would ever come off, or at all events not in this generation—but solely as stations on a line of communications between Algeria and Senegal.

That it is intended to extend the Aïn-Sefra Railway to Jenan bu Rezg, but not to Figuig. That there were not more than 300 or 400 troops along the West Algerian frontier, and that these were divided up into small posts for the purpose of protecting the Algerian tribes who pastured their flocks sometimes inside Morocco; these poor people being liable to attack from the Moorish side (?). Of course these troops were sometimes obliged to follow their protégés into Moorish territory, in order to defend them, or to pursue Moorish raiders.

That since the Sultan had not exercised any rights of sovereignty (beyond religious influence) over Tuat for a very long time, there was nothing to prevent the French from taking it and proceeding via Insalah and Tuat, &c., to her West Coast possessions. That last year an Algerian caravan, which had been attacked at Tafilet, had obtained reparation from the Sultan; but that he knew nothing of any caravan since then. If there had been one there lately (*vide* my notes dated the 21st April, 1893, sent to Foreign Office) he knew nothing of it, and was sure that although some of the members may have been armed, that they were not Algerian troops.

(Signed) GLEICHEN, Captain,
Grenadier Guards.

Tangier, May 5, 1893.

No. 263.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 81. Very Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 9, 1893.

I HAVE been for some time past engaged in a voluminous correspondence with a British subject named Mr. Meakin, of which I think it proper to give an outline to your Lordship, though the actual documents are so numerous and lengthy that I do not propose to forward them unless some special necessity should arise.

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As your Lordship is aware from Sir C. Euan-Smith's No. 123 of the 28th December, 1891, and No. 7 of the 11th January, 1892, and other correspondence, Mr. Meakin published in his paper, the "Times of Morocco," several articles against Cid Bubeker, describing him as a "slave-dealer and brothel-keeper." For this Bubeker instituted an action for libel against him, which was for various reasons adjourned, but is now, according to Bubeker's statement, set down for hearing in the Supreme Court of Gibraltar on the 11th instant.

In the month of June last year Mr. Meakin was at Mazagan, and states that a slave called Rabha, belonging to Sheikh-ben-Zahra, took refuge with him. Among other previous masters she said she had belonged to Cid Bubeker, who had a child by her, treated her with gross cruelty, and then resold her. Eventually Mr. Meakin deposited 140 dollars as the price of the slave at the Mazagan Vice-Consulate to be paid to her master, should he require it (which he never did), and went off with her to Tangier. The Vice-Consul at Mazagan stated to Mr. Eliot when he was in that town that, whatever might be the truth of the slaves' assertions about Bubeker, there was no doubt that her words were put in her mouth by Meakin, and that little value could be attached to them as evidence. Also he said that Meakin's object was not to liberate the slave, but to use her as a witness against Bubeker.

When Bubeker heard that Meakin asserted that he had previously owned the slave, he wrote spontaneously to the Legation on the 31st July, 1892, to say that she had never belonged to him, but had been the property of a friend who sometimes stayed in one of his houses.

Nothing further happened till the 1st March this year, when Mr. Meakin wrote to me giving his account of how the slave had taken refuge with him at Mazagan, stating that he had proofs that she had been bought and sold by Bubeker, and asking that the latter should be forced to refund 189 dollars, the sum he was alleged to have received for her, pay Mr. Meakin's "expenses" (which were not further explained), and allow the slave an annuity.

This letter was referred to Bubeker, who about this time came to Tangier. In reply he not only repeated his assertions that he had never had anything to do with the slave, but produced a document recording her purchase by a certain Mansuri, and her manumission by him.

Mr. Meakin then said that Cid Bubeker had made overtures to him to settle the matter amicably and pay the money claimed, and that it was only in deference to the wishes of the Legation that this arrangement had fallen through. No proof, however, was ever adduced of any such communication having been made by Bubeker, and when Meakin wrote to him on the subject he immediately replied without consulting the Legation, saying that all Meakin's statements were untrue.

Meakin finally made the astonishing statement that he had evidence to the effect that Bubeker had deposited 140 dollars with a member of this Legation for payment to him, and implied that the sum in question had been embezzled.

He also stated that the document whereby Mansuri manumitted the slave was a forgery made by Bubeker, but neither produced proof of this nor showed his own documents.

Also the persons who are said to have sold the slave to Bubeker have appeared at Tangier, but in spite of my repeated statements to Mr. Meakin that they would be received and examined any morning they should choose to present themselves, they have not yet availed themselves of this offer.

In replying to Mr. Meakin, I have taken up the position that as the case is about to be heard in Gibraltar, it is undesirable for me to prejudice the judicial proceedings, unless any clear reason can be shown for immediate interference. No documentary evidence has been produced against Bubeker, and the deed of manumission has been certified by the Cadi of Morocco city, Fez, and Tangier, and an eminent Moorish jurist has written on it his opinion that it is perfectly valid. Further, the object of Mr. Meakin is not in the least philanthropic, but to receive the price of the alleged slave, and in an unguarded letter he stated that he was the only person capable of manumitting her. To this I replied that I was satisfied she was free, but that, if I were not, it would be my duty to remind him that he was acting illegally in possessing a slave.

Finally I informed Meakin that until he withdrew or substantiated his statement that Bubeker had lodged 140 dollars with a member of the Legation I would hold no further correspondence with him, and that he must address himself to the Consulate. He did not, however, cease writing, and stated that Bubeker had forty-three slaves at Morocco city who had petitioned him (Meakin) for their freedom. On investigation

it appeared that a good many of the persons on this list were members of Bubeker's family, including his favourite daughter.

A few days ago I received a letter from Hadj Muhammed Torres, calling upon me to force Meakin to give up the slave Rabha to her former master, Sheikh-ben-Zahra. It was pretty clear that Meakin had himself caused this step to be taken, hoping to involve me in difficulties. I however informed the Sultan's Agent that I believed the woman to be free, and caused the deed of manumission to be shown to him, with which he professed to be satisfied.

It is of course true that Cid Bubeker's reputation for veracity and integrity has been more than once exposed to severe criticism, but in the present case there seems to me to be little evidence against him, and the document he has produced may be set against the testimony of Rabha herself, inspired by Meakin. It is no doubt singular that a manumitted slave should have been bought and sold afterwards, but I am told that this frequently happens in Morocco, where ignorant negroes neither understand nor enjoy freedom. It must also be remembered that not a particle of documentary evidence has been produced to show that Bubeker ever bought or sold the slave.

On the other hand, it is quite clear that Mr. Meakin's object is merely to obtain money and annoy Bubeker, and not in the least to help the woman, who, meanwhile, seems quite comfortable in the service of a Frenchman at Tangier. His assertion that a member of this Legation took 140 dollars from Bubeker needs no comment. Only a little less improbable are his statements that the Cadi of Tangier, Saïd Bubeker, was legally bound to pay him the price of the slave (an impossible decision by Mahomedan law); that Bubeker desired to compromise the matter until stopped by this Legation; that Bubeker has forty-three slaves groaning under oppression, and petitioning for manumission, and many others.

Seeing, therefore, that there is an absence of evidence against one side, and on the other a tissue of gross and palpable misstatements, I trust that your Lordship will approve of the attitude I have adopted in desiring Mr. Meakin to cease writing to me, and in leaving the Court which will try the action for libel to pronounce on the facts of the case. As for the woman, she is either free in virtue of the document of manumission, or, if she is Mr. Meakin's property, as he contends, must be equally free, because a British subject cannot hold a slave. Her status is therefore unaffected by the question at issue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 264.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 84.)
My Lord,

Tangier, May 12, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article which has appeared in the "Réveil du Maroc" respecting foreign affairs in Morocco, and especially the improved relations of Great Britain with the Moorish Government.*

The signature "K" denotes the journalist Kerdec, who is at present in Fez.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 265.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 68.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, May 19, 1893.

I HAVE had under my consideration your despatch No. 79 of the 8th instant, reporting your further proceedings in connection with the alleged affront to British travellers at Fez, and calling attention to the conciliatory attitude of the Moorish Court.

* Not printed.

I have to express my satisfaction at the fortunate termination of the incident, in so far as it affects the relations of this country with Morocco. I note also with pleasure the concluding statements made in your despatch, which is a complete confirmation of the anticipations on which the policy of Her Majesty's Government is based.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 266.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 82. Very Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 10, 1893.

IN continuation of my telegram No. 35 of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that in conversation incidentally held to-day with the Marquis de Potestad Fornari, his Excellency said that he had been told by his Government that we would mutually inform each other before undertaking any matter of importance. Accordingly he desired to consult me in the following matter. The Spanish garrisons at Ceuta and Melilla, especially at the latter place, had been much annoyed by the conduct of the Moors in their vicinity. Thefts had occurred and even shots had been fired. The military authorities pressed for strong measures, to which he as a diplomatist was as a rule opposed. But there seemed to be a consensus of opinion that European prestige had of late greatly suffered, and that the Moors were drifting into the state of things which had brought about the late Spanish war. His Excellency was of opinion that something must be done to bring the Moors to their senses. He proposed therefore, on the recurrence of any outrage, that the garrison of Melilla (or Ceuta) should make a raid or demonstration in force against the offending village.

I certainly was surprised to hear this proposal seriously made by the Spanish Minister, and I suggested that France would not be slow to follow the example thus set. But, urged his Excellency, France does so already. I rejoined that there were vague rumours to this effect, the truth of which was denied by the French Minister, and that in my opinion the first shot fired in Morocco by a European Power might be the signal for great and far-reaching complications. I suggested that his Excellency should try to induce the Sultan to take prompt and fitting steps for the prevention of outrages such as those referred to, and for the punishment of the perpetrators. I suggested that His Majesty might be induced to post officers armed with the necessary powers in Ceuta and Melilla, who could act on the requisition of the Spanish Commander for the pursuit and arrest of criminals.

The Marquis de Potestad seemed to favour this idea and explained that his was merely a suggestion. He then spoke of a visit he proposed to make to Ceuta and Melilla. He expressed his regret that I was not about to use a gun-boat or man-of-war on my approaching tour along the coast, as he wished to do so on his trip. I laughingly replied that I had feared the construction that might be placed by the Spanish press on my proceeding down the coast in a gun-boat, and (in reply to a query by his Excellency) I added that I saw no objection whatever to his using a gun-boat as proposed.

The conversation then turned on other questions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 267.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 11, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a letter I have addressed to the London Joint Stock Bank inclosing cheques to the amount of 10,000*l.*, being the third instalment of the indemnity due from the Moorish Government to the North West African Company.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

* Not printed.

No. 268.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 85. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 14, 1893.

THE following information comes from a secret source, whose value I am not able to estimate. The statements, however, seem to tally with the rumours current here and with what has been reported in general terms by Cid Bubecker.

"French Moors," by which Algerians are presumably intended, have been placed with their tents and families at the following sixteen places, alleged to be all on Moorish territory:—

1. El-Mngub.
2. Dahr Al Kalul.
3. Jenan El-Adâm.
4. Arkan Elish.
5. Er-Remel.
6. Zabih.
7. Hadj Muhamed (?).
8. Wad Namus.
9. Amarah El-Feratis.
10. Waw El-Kaf.
11. El-Enhileh.
12. Kasr El-Ajuz.
13. Wad Dirmil.
14. Fatamah Elzar (?).
15. Wad Jerwal.
16. Ain El-Kun.

I have not been able to identify all these localities, which are supposed to be near or to the south of Figuig.

Further, Cid Sulieman is said to have been sent to Tangier (it is a fact that he is here) to see the French Minister and to ask the meaning of these "guards" having been placed on Moorish territory, and to ascertain if there is any hope of assistance from European Powers.

Also two Frenchmen have arrived at the Court, being sent from Taflelt by Mulai Urshed (probably Mulai Reshid, the Sultan's uncle). This latter wrote and told the Sultan they had been sent to him by some Chiefs of Figuig, who had found them wandering about their country. They have embraced Mahommedanism, and called themselves one a doctor and the other a harness-maker. Both are now privates in the Sultan's artillery, but are regarded by the Court as French spies, and it is thought that the Figuig Chiefs who sent them to Taflelt were paid by the French.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 269.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 69. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 23, 1893.

I APPROVE your action in the matter of the charges brought by Mr. E. Meakin against Cid Bubecker, as reported in your despatch No. 81, very Confidential, of the 9th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 270.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 70.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 24, 1893.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 83 of the 11th instant, transmitting, under flying seal, a letter to the London Joint-Stock Bank, containing cheques to the amount of 10,000*l.*, being the third instalment of the indemnity due from the Moorish Government to the North-West African Company. The letter and cheques have been duly forwarded to their destination, and I inclose a receipt which has been obtained from the London Joint-Stock Bank.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 271.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 72. Confidential.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 25, 1893.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 82, Very Confidential, of the 10th instant, reporting your conversation with the Spanish Minister respecting the outrages recently committed by Moors in the neighbourhood of Ceuta and Melilla, and I have to convey to you my approval of the language which you used on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 272.

*Memorial from the Committee of the Howard Association to the Earl of Rosebery.—
(Received May 31.)*

My Lord,

5, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, May 1893.

THE Committee of this Association have, on several occasions, had under their consideration the deplorable condition of prisoners in the gaols of Morocco, many of whom are stated to be innocent of any crime. Their sufferings have come to the knowledge of this Committee through the visits of two members of their body to that country, as well as by other reliable testimony, both personal and documentary.

The Committee have already endeavoured by means of interviews, by correspondence, and by the use of the public press, to invite the native authorities and the foreign residents in Morocco to promote measures to diminish the cruelties inflicted upon prisoners in that country.

Whilst there is reason to believe that these efforts have been attended by some useful results, yet progress in this direction is rendered exceedingly difficult by reason of the objections naturally entertained by the Moorish Government to anything which might appear to be of the character of political interference; although the sufferings of the prisoners have aroused an interest in this country on the ground of common humanity, and not from political considerations.

In view of these susceptibilities on the part of the Moorish authorities, and the desirability of a respectful regard to them, the Committee believe that one of the most practicable means of ameliorating the condition of prisoners in Morocco would be a recommendation from the British Government to its Consuls in that country suggesting to them to invite from time to time, and in a friendly manner, the attention of the provincial Governors to any special cases of cruelty or injustice towards prisoners, and especially presumably innocent persons under detention, that may have come under their cognizance. For we learn, on good authority, that the unofficial influence of these gentlemen is very great.

The Committee are informed that for some years past the British Consuls have been able to diminish appreciably the Moorish traffic in slaves, through the benevolent exercise of their personal influence with the local authorities.

The Committee, therefore, venture to suggest to your Lordship the issue of a

Circular despatch to the British Consuls in Morocco, inviting a similar and continued co-operation in the exercise of friendly personal influence with the local Governors or other authorities in reference to the evils now complained of as they may come under their notice. An important service to humanity will thus be rendered.

We remain, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS PEEK, *Chairman of Committee.*
THOS. FOWLER, *Baronet, Treasurer.*
WILLIAM TALLACK, *Secretary.*

No. 273.

The North-West African Company to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 1.)

My Lord,

132, Cheapside, London, May 30, 1893.

THE London Joint Stock Bank (Limited) have informed us that they have received, and passed to our credit, the sum of 10,000*l.* from the Sultan of Morocco through Her Majesty's Foreign Office.

The Directors instruct me to express their sincere thanks to your Lordship for obtaining payment of this third instalment of the Cape Juby indemnity.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GEO. RAYNOR, *Secretary.*

No. 274.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 86. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 22, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the following information, volunteered to me by M. Cantagalli, the Italian Minister.

His Excellency spoke first of the Sultan's movements, respecting which he had received a report from his interpreter, M. Gentile, who is now at Fez. His Majesty would remain in that city until after the festival known as "The Great Feast," which takes place in about three weeks from now, and then start on an expedition for which great preparations had been made, but whose object was not yet certain. M. Gentile indicated three possibilities. First, that the Sultan would go to Tafilelt, and return via Tarudant and Agadir to Morocco; second, that he would proceed north-west from Fez in order to chastize the mountain tribes; third, that he would make an expedition into the Zimmoor country, and pass part of the summer and autumn at Rabat. While admitting that his Shereefian Majesty often did his best to spread false impressions respecting his future movements, M. Gentile was still of opinion that it was most probable he would go to Tafilelt. Large stores had been accumulated in Sefroo; clothes in considerable quantity had been sent to Tafilelt itself; numerous emissaries had been dispatched to ascertain the temper of the Berber tribes, and finally Colonel Bregoli had, by His Majesty's direction, elaborated, in conjunction with the Moorish engineers, an itinerary from Fez to Tafilelt, by which the journey was arranged to be made in twenty halts.

On the other hand, I may mention that the German Minister recently observed to me that he felt sure the Sultan would go towards autumn to his favourite residence, Rabat.

M. Gentile also reported that constant conferences took place between the Sultan and Dr. Linares, of the French Military Mission, and M. Kerdec. The latter had been received in a private audience of over an hour before his recent departure from Fez. The greatest secrecy was maintained as to the object of these interviews. The health of both the Sultan and Cid Emfadi Gharnit was excellent, and the latter, who had been complaining of loss of appetite, was now able to devote himself with zest to the pleasures of the table.

M. Cantagalli then spoke of the presence of Ben Suleiman at Tangier, and said that there was no doubt he had come to remonstrate with Count d'Aubigny respecting the continued advance of the French in the direction of Figuig. The details of that advance were obscure; but it was certain that, whereas the French were supposed to be a day's journey from Figuig, they were really but three hours' distant. I did not

feel at liberty to communicate to M. Cantagalli the contents of my despatch No. 85, Secret, of the 14th instant; but it appears to me that Wad Dermel, one of the places there mentioned, would be only about three hours from Figuig.

M. Cantagalli then said he had instructed M. Gentile to ask the Sultan why he had sent Ben Suleiman direct to the French, instead of addressing himself to Italy, England, and Spain, who had signed the Agreement of 1887, and asking them to assist him in defending his rights.

I made no observations on this proposition, and during the interview confined myself to admitting in general terms that rumours of a French advance had reached this Legation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 275.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 3.)

(No. 87. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 23, 1893.

WITH reference to my last preceding despatch, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just received a private letter from Kaid Harry Maclean at Fez, in which the following passage occurs:—

"I think the Sultan will remain here till about the 1st July. He has sent men to look and report on a road from here to Tafilelt, and then on to Morocco by Tarudant. I hear the road is impassable for a large army in some places. Ci Foudal (Gharnit) says he has received letters from Ci Suleiman (the Amin sent from the Court to see the French Minister about the aggressive movement of the French at Figuig and Tuat) to assure the Sultan that the French have retired. Kerdec left on Monday, and was sent for on Tuesday. He had a long private interview with the Sultan, and received a handsome grey horse. Gentile is much annoyed at this. Ci Foudal said it was true one tribe in Figuig and two in Tuat helped the French, and wanted them to take the country."

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 276.

Mr. Eliot to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 7.)

(No. 88.)

My Lord,

Tangier, May 27, 1893.

WITH reference to Sir West Ridgeway's despatch No. 81 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the High Court of Gibraltar has given judgment in the case of Bubeker v. Meakin in favour of the plaintiff, Meakin being fined 100l. and costs.

I am also told that an injunction was made prohibiting Meakin from publishing any libel against Bubeker in future under pain of contempt of Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 277.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 74.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 7, 1893.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copy of a Memorial from the Committee of the Howard Association,* calling attention to the deplorable condition of prisoners in the gaols of Morocco, and asking that Her Majesty's Consuls may be instructed to do what

* No. 272.

they can by private and unofficial representations to the local authorities to put an end to the grave malpractices of which complaint is made.

I have to request that you will instruct the British Consular officers under your superintendence in this sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 278.

Foreign Office to Howard Association Committee.

Gentlemen,

Foreign Office, June 7, 1893.

I AM directed by the Earl of Rosebery to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorial respecting the condition of prisoners in the gaols of Morocco, which was left at this Department on the 31st ultimo by a deputation from the Howard Association.

I am to state, in reply, that British Consular officers in Morocco will be instructed to use their influence with the local authorities with a view to diminish the grave abuses of which complaint is made.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 279.

Lord Vivian to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 175. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, June 5, 1893.

SIGNOR BRIN has communicated to me in confidence the despatch, of which I inclose a translation, from the Italian Minister at Tangier, reporting on the encroachments of the French in the direction of Figuig, and on the disposition shown by the Sultan of Morocco to treat directly with them without consulting the Representatives of Great Britain, Italy, and Spain, a course which Signor Cantagalli prophesies must lead to trouble.

Signor Brin further told me that Signor Gentile was much impressed with the wretched condition of the country through which he passed on his way to Fez, which had greatly changed for the worse since he last visited it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VIVIAN.

Inclosure in No. 279.

Signor Cantagalli to Signor Brin.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Tangier, May 20, 1893.

ACCORDING to a Report of the Cavaliere Gentile from Fez, the Fechi (Secretary), Sid Mohamed-ben-Slimen, who has been at Tangier for some time, has been charged by the Sultan to protest to the French Minister against certain violations of the frontier towards Figuig, and to request that the Treaty of Delimitation of 1845 may be strictly observed.

This news confirms the current reports of which I have already informed your Excellency in several of my recent despatches. The French being strong in their position at Genan Bozig, their possession of which has already been recognized, must have pushed on their advanced posts in the direction of Figuig. There can no longer be any doubt on this point. It remains for the Royal Secretary-Interpreter to furnish, as he promises, and will be able to do, further particulars, which I shall at once communicate to your Excellency.

The fact, however, strikes me that the Sultan has not said a word about these violations to the three Powers Signatories of the note of 1887, and that he prefers to deal directly with France.

Perhaps the departure of M. Souhart, First Secretary of the French Legation here,
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is connected with the Sultan's protest. M. Souhart left last Tuesday, and should now be in Paris.

It is evident that neither good faith nor an exaggerated confidence in the efficacy of the intervention of the three Powers have induced His Majesty to adopt this course.

Muley Hassan must have come to the conclusion, since the time when he had to ask our advice on the question of Tuat, that very little was to be expected of England or of Spain herself in the way of opposing an efficacious barrier to the penetration of French arms and influence. He therefore said nothing of the reply addressed to him by the Government of the Republic, which was to the following effect: "It is necessary for France to establish a police in the oasis, to protect her interests and her own subjects, and nobody has a right to interfere in the matter." We came last, and on that account our language could not be either more explicit or more discouraging than was that of the two Powers above mentioned.

The region, however, being distant, the controversy could be sustained by arguments and settled by facts. On this last hypothesis very grave injury might, and perhaps will, occur. What is happening at Figuig is a source of more direct danger. In this case the Sultan's claims are supported by the Treaties. Can we hope that they will prove effectual? I do not think so.

In the first place, as far as I am given to understand, my colleagues the Representatives of Spain and Great Britain are, to a certain extent, indifferent. After all, the Sultan has not made any complaint either to them or to me. They therefore remain silent.

The Sultan wishes to settle the matter with France, without asking any one's assistance or advice. He will suffer a humiliation. If the military authorities of Algeria have effected a settlement beyond the legitimate frontier, they will certainly not retire unless some remonstrance is made. And an effective violation will thus have been consummated.

An inference may be drawn from the above. France is acquiring territory. She is a near, strong, and imperious ("incalzante") Power. Self-interest induces Morocco to keep her as a friend, or at least propitiated and pacific.

The protection (offered) by those who desire the maintenance of the *status quo* will arrive too late. Morocco is going to ruin through its own defects, through its unreasoning hatred of the name of European, through its mistaken policy, and through dread of its vigorous and armed neighbour. It is my painful duty to raise my voice as a prophet of ill, but what I say is true.

(Signed) CANTAGALLI.

No. 280.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 8, 1893.

WITH reference to your letter of the 12th January, and to previous correspondence respecting the temporary special mission of Sir West Ridgeway to Tangier, I am directed by the Earl of Rosebery to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners, that it appears by a telegram recently received that the term of six months assigned to the appointment will hardly suffice to enable the Minister to complete the inquiries with which he is charged, and to report the result to Her Majesty's Government.

The six months will expire on the 15th July next. Sir West Ridgeway states, however, that a prolongation of his mission until the 1st August will enable him to accomplish all the business with which he has been intrusted, and, under these circumstances, I am to request that you will move their Lordships to sanction his further employment until that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

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No. 281.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, June 12, 1893, 4.45 P.M.

INFORM Sultan and Moorish Government that the Queen has appointed Mr. Satow to be Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier.

No. 282.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 90.)

Tangier, June 2, 1893.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 54 and 56 of the 18th and 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that, after examining the question, I see no objection on diplomatic or political grounds to the proposal of the French Postal Administration that the names of the French post-offices established at Tangier, Casablanca, El-Kasr-el-Kebir, Fez, Larache, Mazagan, Mogador, Rabat, and Saffi should be inserted in Article 38 of the detailed Regulations appended to the Postal Union Convention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 283.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 91.)

Tangier, June 2, 1893.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report my return from a tour of inspection of the Vice-Consulates on the coast.

By the special orders of the Sultan I was received with great honour. Salutes were fired, guards of honour were mounted, and the Governors and other high officials were in readiness to receive me at each port. I invariably found the officials courteous and anxious to meet my wishes, and I was able to put two or three minor questions in train for settlement.

On my first visit to Rabat the orders of the Sultan as regards my reception had not been received, and consequently no salute was fired. This omission elicited, I am informed, a severe rebuke from the Sultan.

I shall have the honour, in a future despatch, of reporting on the various questions regarding which I collected information during my visit to the coast.

I take this opportunity of bringing to notice the great courtesy and attention which I and my party received during the tour from Captain Scheult, of "Le Meuse," the French steamer in which we sailed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 284.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 13.)

(No. 38.)

Tangier, June 13, 1893.

(Telegraphic.) P.

IN reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 22 of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have informed the Sultan of Mr. Satow's appointment, and I would solicit your Lordship's instructions whether I shall also communicate the appointment to my foreign colleagues.

No. 285.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 38. No objection.

Foreign Office, June 14, 1893.

No. 286.

Foreign Office to Post Office.

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 15, 1893.

THE Earl of Rosebery has considered, in communication with the Colonial Office, and with Her Majesty's Minister at Tangier, your letter of the 14th April respecting the wish of the French Postal Administration to insert in Article 38 of the Detailed Regulations appended to the Postal Union Convention the names of certain French Post-offices recently established in Morocco.

I am now to state to you, in reply, for the information of the Postmaster-General, that his Lordship is not aware of any objection, on diplomatic grounds, to this proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) P. CURRIE.

No. 287.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(Received June 16.)

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, June 15, 1893.

I AM directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to state, in reply to your letter of the 8th instant, that they assent, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State, to the employment of Sir J. W. Ridgeway on his Special Mission to Morocco, which would, under ordinary circumstances, terminate on the 15th proximo, being prolonged to the 1st August, by which date, it is stated, he will have completed the business intrusted to him.

I am, &c.
(Signed) R. E. WELBY.

No. 288.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 19.)

(No. 92.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 5, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to submit copy of a Report made by Mr. C. N. E. Eliot after a tour along the coast in March last.

I delayed submission of this Report, which incidentally refers to several important questions, until I had myself visited the ports, and was in a position to offer an opinion regarding them. As, however, Mr. Eliot, who has rendered me valuable assistance during the period of my mission, is now leaving for London, it is possible that your Lordship may wish to refer to him personally regarding some of the questions raised in his Report. I accordingly forward it at once, instead of waiting till my own Report is ready for submission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 No. 288.

Sir West Ridgeway to Mr. Eliot.

Sir,

Tangier, March 3, 1893.

I HAVE to instruct you to visit the Consulates and Vice-Consulates at Dar-al-Baida, Mazagan, Mogador, and as many other towns on the coast as the steamer may put into. You should more particularly inquire into the following matters:—

1. What is the present state of the House question? Have British subjects serious difficulty in obtaining adequate premises for their residence and the transaction of their business? To what extent is the right of making repairs restricted? What is the ordinary form of tenure of house property? What is the state of affairs at Casablanca as regards the promises made by the Shereefian Government to provide additional accommodation for Europeans? Are similar extensions necessary at other towns?

2. What improvements for navigation can be suggested at the various ports?

3. What is the present state of the grain trade and the prospects of harvest? What is the value of the concession obtained by Count Tattenbach for exporting wheat and barley?

4. To what extent are open sales of slaves or cases of cruelty prevalent at these ports, and has there been any improvement in this respect?

(5, 6, 7 and 8 refer to some special cases which formed part of the current business of the Legation in March.)

9. At Mogador you should endeavour to ascertain the real facts with respect to the Jewish quarter, which is stated to be so overcrowded as to actually endanger the health and lives of the inhabitants.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 288.

Mr. Eliot to Sir West Ridgeway.

Sir,

Tangier, March 20, 1893.

IN compliance with your instructions dated the 3rd March, I have visited the ports of Dar-al-Baida (or Casablanca), Mazagan, Saffi, and Mogador (circumstances having prevented me from touching at either Larache or Rabat), and have the honour to submit to you the following information. I have already addressed to you separate Reports on the stores at Dar-al-Baida claimed by the Italian Government, on the alleged burglarious attempt on Mr. Madden's house at Mazagan, on the case of the slave Rabha, and on "the Palm-tree House" at Mogador.

1. With regard to the house question there can be little doubt on two points: first, that the Moorish authorities do all in their power to prevent Europeans from acquiring houses or land either temporarily or permanently; and secondly, that this policy obtains its undoubted object of hampering trade, and preventing the natural expansion of European industry. All the towns I have visited are, in accordance with Moorish custom, surrounded by a wall. The space thus circumscribed is fully covered by houses or huts, which are all occupied, so that there is no room for new comers or new premises, and the local authorities refuse, as far as possible, to allow Europeans to build outside the walls or to acquire house property already existing there.

Houses are held in the coast towns on three different tenures. Firstly, there are many houses which were built by Europeans before the Conference of Madrid, which, by making all transactions respecting landed property dependent on the permission of the Moorish Government, brought about the present state of things. Formerly, houses were constructed, if without the express permission, at least with the tacit consent, of the authorities. They were then often sold to other foreigners, the deed of sale or some other document being registered at the Consulates of the respective parties, so as to constitute a valid title for European law. The Moors, however, refuse to recognize such houses as belonging to Europeans, as they only admit deeds which are valid by Mahomedan law, that is, deeds which have been drawn up by native notaries.

The notaries invariably refuse to draw up the necessary deeds for houses such as those described.

Secondly, there are a large number of houses owned by natives, and leased by them to Europeans. In the majority of cases, the owners of such houses are Jews, as the Moorish authorities put every kind of pressure, not excluding threats of imprisonment, on Mahomedans who desire to let houses to Christians, and the notaries, without whose documents no transaction is valid by Mahomedan law, refuse in this case, as in the last, to draw up the necessary documents. The Rabbis, however, who act as notaries where Jews are concerned, have no objection to making over houses to Christians. An example of what may happen to Europeans who buy houses of Moors may be seen in the case of "the Palm-tree House," near Mogador, which has been bought and repaired by an Englishman, and for all practical purposes owned and inhabited by him for fifteen years. Torres now requests that he may be ejected, and speaks of his occupancy in terms which imply that he had violently taken possession of the premises.

Thirdly, we have the houses built by the Moorish Government, and let by them to foreigners at a rate of 6 per cent. on their cost. At present this is the only way of obtaining a house, except leasing one from a Jew.

As a rule, the Government are ready to repair their own houses. It is necessary to obtain an order from the Administrators of Customs, who are the chief financial authorities in every port, giving the builders permission to work and supplying the necessary funds, 6 per cent. on which is added to the rent. A considerable interval generally elapses before the required order can be obtained from the Administrators, as they always plead want of money or allege some frivolous pretext for delay. I gathered, however, that, as a rule, the occupants of Government houses, if they keep on good terms with the authorities and tip where tips are due, succeed in getting the repairs they require executed, though they cannot always make the additions to their premises which they would desire.

The condition of the other categories of houses in respect to the possibility of executing repairs varies at different ports. It seems best at Dar-al-Baida, where I understand that the well-placed dollar rarely fails to secure what is necessary. It should be observed that this town is exceptionally well circumstanced in one respect, namely, that there are a number of Spanish masons, who make their own lime, and with whom the authorities cannot interfere. At Mogador, Saffi, and Mazagan, and particularly at the last-named port, repairs are prevented by the authorities threatening to imprison any mason who works for Europeans, or any one who sells them building materials, such as lime, and the greatest inconvenience is the result.

Of course the only really satisfactory solution of the question would be to give Europeans the unrestricted right of holding landed property, but this may be set aside as a concession which could only be extorted from the Sultan by united pressure from the principal Powers interested. I am also inclined to think that Article XIII of Sir C. Euan-Smith's Treaty would not prove very efficacious, or that at least it would not be worth while to exercise much pressure in order to secure its signature. It stipulates that "all subjects of Her Britannic Majesty shall have the unrestricted right to repair, rebuild, enlarge, or otherwise change any houses or stores which are their legal property, or which have been leased to them for a term of years. They shall also have the unrestricted right to build houses, stores, or other buildings on land belonging to them, or rented by them for that special purpose." It has been pointed out to me by Mr. Carver and other merchants that even if this clause were granted the Moorish authorities would always be able to object that many houses belonging to Europeans are not their legal property, that is, not their property by Mahomedan law, and this objection seems to me worthy of serious consideration. As a matter of fact, the Mahomedan law offers no insuperable difficulties to the acquisition of land by Europeans, but merely requires for this, as for many other transactions, the execution of certain complicated deeds. The difficulties are due to the refusal of the Kadis and other superior authorities to allow the notaries to execute these deeds where Europeans are concerned. Also the Article as at present drafted would not prevent the system of intimidation by which masons are prevented from working for Europeans.

In fact, it appears to me that in this, as in other matters, the root of the evil lies less in the absence of a proper Treaty than in the existence of a state of things which renders it possible for a Kaid or Kadi to forbid masons to work for Europeans, or notaries to execute for them the proper documents. The authorities will not permit Europeans to enjoy rights which are not forbidden them by law. A Moor may sell his house to another Moor without difficulty: if he tries to sell the same house to a

Christian—though there is no legal reason why he should not—the notaries will call his title in question, and refuse to execute the deeds.

I think that, as a temporary measure, a few masons might receive the "Mukhalata" certificate (agent's certificate) in each town. This is the mildest form of protection, but would probably be sufficient to secure the bearers against the violence of the authorities. As a plausible excuse the masons might be employed to keep in order the British or other European cemeteries, for which purpose their services are really needed. Their number could be regulated so as to make them too few to build houses or otherwise come into collision with the authorities, and secure their activity being limited to the execution of repairs. This idea, which is apparently new, seemed to commend itself generally to the Consuls.

It also appears to me that much might be done, without making any new Treaty stipulations, if in some test case where the notaries refuse to write the ordinary documents which would be granted to any Moor, the central authorities were called on to interfere in the matter, and, in the probable event of their refusing to give any efficient help, were informed that if they persisted in vexatious opposition the person who was ready to sell the house would receive protection. This, of course, might be described as an abuse of the protection system, but it would be adopted in self-defence against a much greater abuse.

It is clearly of great importance to urge on the Sultan the more rapid execution of the extension of Dar-al-Baida, sanctioned by His Majesty. Lord Rosebery has authorized concerted action with the Representatives of the Great Powers in the matter. The present town does not supply adequate room for the operations required by the trade already existing, much less permit commerce to develop. The narrow streets are lined with piles of grain, covered with tarpaulin, for which no accommodation could be found in the stores. At present only the town wall of the new quarter is being built, and the Governor told me it would not be completed till the end of the year. This seemed to me an unnecessarily long period, just as the wall itself is unnecessarily massive. I should have supposed that with a reasonable number of masons it might be finished in three months. Also, it is proposed not to begin to build houses until the wall is entirely finished, though the two operations could apparently quite well go on at the same time. One side of the wall runs along the shore, and it is not proposed to make any gate in it, though it would seem obviously convenient to do so in order to secure more direct communication with the port and custom-house. I believe no sites for houses have yet been selected, but the French Consul has been promised a piece of ground and a house exactly corresponding to the premises he now occupies.

Undoubtedly the most desirable building site in Dar-al-Baida is the space within the walls, now occupied by huts, near one of the gates on the land side. Were European houses and stores built here, they would be able to receive grain and other merchandize directly on its arrival in the town, and it could be taken thence by a straight and direct route to the custom-house, whereas the position of the new town renders necessary a more roundabout and complicated system of transport and storage. But, on the other hand, it must be remembered that the huts were practically erected to prevent Europeans obtaining the ground, and that there is little probability of the Moorish Government giving way on this point, whereas the Sultan has consented to the erection of the new town.

Mazagan is perhaps even more crowded than Dar-al-Baida, but as the trade is less, the inconvenience is not so keenly felt. The town is very small, being merely an old Portuguese fortress; there is no vacant space available for building within the walls, and, I understand, not a single house or store which can be obtained by Europeans in addition to those now occupied by them. The Governor refuses to allow Europeans to build outside the town, although it is surrounded by huts and some Moorish houses, and in the case of Mr. Madden, who, as Danish Vice-Consul, managed to acquire a house outside the walls, stated officially that Christians who did not live in the town had no right to be protected against robbery and violence. At Saffi I was told there are about ten houses which Europeans are allowed to hire, all of which are at present occupied. Many others would be available if pressure were not applied by the Kaid and Kadi to prevent Mahomedans from letting their houses to Christian tenants. At Mogador there is a large Hebrew population, the richer members of which do not live in the Mellah, or Jewish quarter. Hence the number of houses which may be rented by Europeans is much larger than in other parts. Practically, however, the accommodation is inadequate—setting aside the congested state of the Mellah. It appears to me that both here and at Mazagan the authorities ought to allow buildings

to be erected outside the existing town walls, and, whether they inclose such buildings with a new wall or not, afford them adequate police protection as long as they are in the immediate vicinity of the city.

As illustrative of the present attitude of the Moorish authorities, and of the difficulty experienced in obtaining ordinary legal documents, I would call attention to another question. At Saffi the Kadi has given orders to the notaries not to issue to Europeans the documents usually employed in commercial matters in this country. In the majority of transactions between Moors and Christian merchants the former become debtor to the latter and execute a document promising to pay within a limited time. According to native custom the debtor ought to find security, but the notaries not only refuse to insert this clause, but add another to the effect that, in the absence or bankruptcy of the debtor, the creditor has no further claim on any one.

On the 5th January, 1890, Sir W. Kirby Green obtained a letter from Sid Mohammed Torres ordering the notaries to issue documents in the usual form, but, as often happens in Morocco, no result whatever attended the delivery of this missive. I now hear that within the last twelve months the notaries of Dar-al-Baida have adopted the same vexatious system. It cannot, unfortunately, be denied that the grossest abuses have been perpetrated by Europeans in the matter of imprisonment for debt, perfectly innocent relatives of debtors having been uselessly incarcerated. But at the same time I am informed that the system of security is universal in Morocco, and necessary to the transaction of business according to native ideas.

Objections might be raised to the conduct of the officials in refusing documents under Article IV of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of 1856, which says, "Absolute freedom shall be given in all cases to the buyer and seller to bargain together, and no interference on the part of the Sultan's officers shall be permitted. Should any Governor or other officer interfere in the lawful purchase or sale of goods or merchandize to be imported into, or to be exported from, the Sultan's dominions, His Shereefian Majesty shall severely punish the said officer for such conduct."

2. I gather that, in the opinion of nautical specialists, a few improvements, such as would be made as a matter of course in any European town, would more than double the capabilities of the Moorish coast trade. Dar-al-Baida is perhaps the best circumstanced of the ports, as it is generally possible to land there at any hour. It would, however, be well to blow up the rocks at the south side of the town. At Mazagan goods are landed from a sort of old dock, which is sheltered, and conveniently situated for the discharge of cargo. It is, however, so shallow that lighters cannot enter it at low tide. Were it deepened, which could apparently be done without difficulty and at a trifling expense, an immense economy of time would be the result. The difficulties presented by the port of Saffi are well known. It consists of a long beach which cannot be used as a landing-place on account of the shallowness of the water, and a small creek which can be entered only through an exceedingly narrow and dangerous passage between the rocks. This entrance can only be used in perfectly fine weather, and grain steamers often wait three weeks or a month without being able to have communication with the shore. The fact that Saffi, under these circumstances, still remains one of the most important towns commercially on the coast shows how great its other advantages must be. It appears that all that is necessary to make it a fair port is the construction of an iron jetty on to which steamers could discharge. The port of Mogador is superior to those mentioned, and has a large harbour; but ships are afraid to remain in it over night on account of the rocks and sudden winds. Considerable expenditure in the construction of breakwaters and the destruction of rocks would be necessary to make it a really satisfactory port. Meanwhile, the harbour, such as it is, appears to suffer much from ships being allowed to cast their ballast (mostly stones) into it.

The arrangements of the Custom-house and other port authorities are said to be very defective, and to involve unnecessary and vexatious delay. The most definite grievance, which could be easily remedied, is the inadequate supply of lighters, and the unfair and capricious manner in which their services are granted. At Dar-al-Baida there are, I believe, only ten in active use, while there are frequently five or six steamers, not counting native craft, in port. In the Treaty proposed by Sir Charles Euan-Smith, all mention of the right of the Moorish Government to force the exclusive use of their lighters on all vessels was carefully omitted, and it was thought that merchants would welcome this as a great boon, and gladly use their own lighters. I gather, however, that this is not what is desired by commercial people, and that they are quite happy to allow the Moorish Government to retain their exclusive rights, and only hope to see the number of lighters increased.

3. As far as I can ascertain the true facts of the case, the permission to export barley (one may neglect the wheat, as the export duty is in this case prohibitive) has not been productive of great gains to the merchants. It is difficult to judge what would be the real value of a continuation of the concession granted to Count Tattenbach, because the two years during which the export has been allowed furnish not only a very brief, but also a very anomalous, experience. When the permission was first granted, barley sold at 25s. or 26s. a quarter in London, an unusually high price, which was probably owing to the absence of Russian grain occasioned by the famine, and at this price, with the existing duty, fair, but it would appear not enormous, profits were made. The next year prices fell suddenly to 15s. or 14s. a quarter, and many who had speculated in grain incurred heavy losses. It is, I understand, impossible to export grain at 15s. the quarter with the present rate of duty, and, in fact, it will not even be grown. In this country it is usual to make arrangements for buying the crop before seed-time, and, under the present conditions, the seed will probably simply not be sown. Duty, freight, and other expenses take about 10s., and hence only between 4s. and 5s. can be given for the quarter on the spot, which is not sufficient to remunerate the cultivator. If, however, the duty were reduced to 4 reals per fanega, barley could be exported with profit at any prices which are likely to prevail in the English market. It must be remembered that the trade in barley has a double action, as it affects not only foreign merchants, but also the local population. Barley is an exceedingly easy crop to raise, and therefore the natives are always glad to cultivate it if they can receive a reasonable price from the merchant, and the money thus obtained does much to stimulate commercial activity and generally to increase the relations between Europeans and natives. When, however, they cannot sell their barley, they simply do not sow more than is wanted for their own needs, and trade of every kind diminishes. Naturally, the higher the price of barley, the further inland its cultivation extends, as it is worth while to pay for extra carriage, and it may thus be said that the price which a merchant is ready to pay greatly affects the extent to which the Empire of Morocco is cultivated, and the limits of the zone of British trade. I am told that a reduction of duty would in all probability not greatly increase the profits made. It would enormously extend the area of cultivation, but the competition between the different European merchants is so keen that it would almost inevitably cut down profits to a minimum.

The prospects for the coming harvest are not brilliant. The rainfall has been insufficient, and damages are feared from locusts, particularly near Dar-al-Baida. The winged locusts passed by that town some time ago, and it is feared they have laid their eggs all along the coast, and that the larvæ (which are much more destructive than the perfect insect) may absolutely annihilate some of the most important and accessible crops. There are, however, considerable stores remaining from the grain which was not exported last year.

In connection with this subject, I would desire to call attention to the question of removing our Consulate from Mogador to Dar-al-Baida, and of leaving only a Vice-Consulate at the former town. Dar-al-Baida is without doubt the most important emporium for the grain trade (by which I mean not only that in barley, but also that in beans and peas) and other branches of commerce, and the residence of several substantial English merchants. Mogador, on the contrary, has now no grain trade, and I am informed that not a single English merchant doing a large trade lives there. British trade is almost entirely in the hands of Jews, who do business on a small scale for Manchester firms, and the cargo shipped is comparatively small. Dar-al-Baida has also the great advantage of being much nearer Tangier than Mogador.

Rumours were prevalent at Mogador when I was there that the port of Agadir is to be opened to Europeans, and that many natives representing German firms had gone there to buy land. The commercial activity of the Germans is a matter of general note.

4. I inquired into the present state of the slavery question, and found a complete unanimity of opinion that domestic slavery exists in Morocco in a very mild and benevolent form. Instances of cruelty are rare, and in most cases slaves would be sorry to quit their owners. Also slavery does not seem to be considered a disgrace, or freedom an honour. An Arab regards a slave without any feeling of *civis Romanus sum*, and the slaves of the Sultan and influential people are objects of universal respect.

In most towns which I visited I was told that the public sale of slaves was rare, and only one or two cases could be cited as having occurred in the last two or three years. Slaves are not brought to the coast in great quantities, and when two or three

arrive they are usually lodged in a house, where they are visited by intending purchasers, and the whole business is conducted without any public scandal.

The only exception is Saffi, where public sales of slaves seem to be quite usual. I myself arriving there casually saw a negro girl of about 12 sold for 90 dollars. There is, however, no regular slave market, and at the most two or three slaves are sold at a time.

9. The Mellah of Mogador consists of two streets, running right and left along the town walls from the side of the principal gate, and called respectively the Old and the New Mellah. The latter name does not, however, imply that the quarter is an improved modern construction, as it is rather worse than the other one. Each Mellah consists of a single tortuous street, with houses on either side, occasionally built right across, so that the road becomes merely a passage through a building. The street is usually described as very narrow, but this is, of course, a relative term. It is much narrower than most of the streets of Mogador, which are as a rule broad, but is nearly as wide as the principal thoroughfares of Tangier. The condition of the street in both Mellahs is filthy. Heaps of garbage are piled up on both sides, animals are killed in the middle of the way, and dogs, and even donkeys, which have died from natural causes are left to putrefy. In many places the street seems to pass over cesspools, which are only partially covered with broken boards or rafters. It is clear that much of this state of things is the fault of the inhabitants of the Mellah. If the same place were inhabited by Mahomedans it would probably be much cleaner, and it cannot be said that the inhabitants, to judge from their dress, &c., are exceedingly poor. I happened to be there on the occasion of a wedding, and it was extremely singular to see Jewesses issuing from these filthy houses dressed in what appeared to be simple cloth of gold. On the other hand, the poorer Jews have undoubtedly no means of remedying the great overcrowding of the Mellah. I did not visit the interior of the houses myself, but I heard on good authority of cases where three generations of a family, amounting to as much as eleven persons in one instance, lived and slept in one small room. The Moorish authorities have promised to enlarge the quarter, but nothing whatever has yet been done. It apparently cannot well be extended without breaking through the town wall and building outside. It has been proved by experience that on the occasion of any plague, such as the small-pox, the disease is much more virulent and makes far greater ravages in the Mellah than elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

No. 289.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 77.)
Sir,

Foreign Office, June 19, 1893.

I HAVE to inform you that, after communication with the Board of Treasury, I sanction the extension, until the 1st August next, of the term originally fixed for the duration of your special mission to Tangier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 290.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 97.)
My Lord,

Tangier, June 7, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Macleod, British Vice-Consul at Fez, and of my reply thereto.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 290.

Vice-Consul Macleod to Sir West Ridgeway.

Fez, May 25, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that yesterday I called upon Cid Emfadi Gharnit regarding a question which had arisen between the Taleb of this Vice-Consulate and the Mohtasseb of Fez. This functionary in Fez is a much more important official than those at the ports, and acts independently of the Governor, who in this question (as well as many others I have heard of) would not interfere, and referred me to the Vizir.

Cid Gharnit arranged the matter satisfactorily and amicably. The Vizir was further very friendly, assuring me fervently that all irritation between the Moorish Government and the English was at an end, and all would go well in the future. I, of course, heartily reciprocated these expressions.

I asked the Vizir whether he had as yet informed the different Governors in this district concerning the British protégés or Agents in their respective Pashalics.

The Vizir answered that he had not done so, and suggested that I should furnish him with separate lists for each Basha, extracted from the lists already furnished.

I answered that I would do so with pleasure, and that I would forward the required extracts for your Excellency's approval and signature, and then hand them on to the Vizir.

"Oh, no, do not trouble to do that," he answered; "it is not necessary. You are the Consul, and we accept what you send as correct. More than that," added the Vizir, "the Basha and other officials here are very ignorant people, and do not understand Treaties and such things, so never go to them twice if they do not do what you want, but come to me, or, when the Court is absent, write to me, and I will do my best for you."

I thanked the Vizir cordially for his remarks, which I said I would remember.

As there is time to hear from your Excellency, I transmit herewith the extracts required, for your Excellency's approval or for instructions. I did not promise them on any date to the Vizir.

M. Gentile told me the other day that the Vizir Gharnit had been speaking highly of me to him.

I cannot say whether the Vizir is sincere or disinterested in what he says, but he is evidently trying hard to be obliging and friendly, and at the same time avoid compromising the Sultan as having recognized this Vice-Consulate.

I should be glad to have your Excellency's instructions as to whether I should write to the Vizir direct, as he requests, when the Court is absent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. MACIVER MACLEOD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 290.

Sir West Ridgeway to Vice-Consul Macleod.

Sir,

Tangier, June 7, 1893.

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter of the 25th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had on the 24th idem with Cid Emfadi Gharnit.

I have learnt with satisfaction that the Minister arranged "satisfactorily and amicably" the affair which was the cause of your interview, and that he also unreservedly recognized you in your capacity of Vice-Consul.

I see no objection to your furnishing the Minister with the lists of protégés required, or to your writing direct to his Excellency when necessary during the absence of the Court. But at present it is not desirable that any communication on a question, directly or indirectly affecting the relations of the two Governments, should be addressed by you to the Minister without reference to this Legation, when time and urgency permit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 291.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 98. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 7, 1893.

ON the 2nd instant—the day after my return from the coast—M. Cantagalli, the Italian Minister, called on me.

In the course of conversation he informed me that his interpreter, M. Gentile, had been received by the Sultan.

M. Gentile reported that French influence was predominant in Fez, and that the Sultan's feeling towards France was that of gratitude for having helped him to defeat the recent British negotiations, mingled with fear at the possibility of the harm they might do him from the side of Algeria. M. Gentile found the Sultan more than ever opposed to commercial concessions. The French are said to be working for a railway, probably to Wazan, and the visit which M. de la Martinière, a high official on the Staff of the Governor-General of Algeria, is making to that place, is supposed to have political significance. M. Cantagalli then alluded to the possible death of the Sultan, and to the complications that might arise. I replied that if the European Powers held aloof and allowed the Moors to settle the question without outside interference a choice would soon be made, but M. Cantagalli expressed the fear lest the French should put forward the Shereef of Wazan (supposed to be their protégé) for the succession.

When I called yesterday upon Count Tattenbach (the German Representative), I found him much preoccupied with the same subject. He said that he had not in the first instance attached much importance to the *rapprochement* between France and Morocco. He had supposed that Morocco was merely contemplating the possibility of hostilities by England, and that as this fear died away the Sultan's distrust of France would be revived. But he confessed that he had been mistaken, for French influence appeared to be stronger than ever.

Count Tattenbach had heard M. Gentile's reports, which I am not prepared to accept without confirmation, and they may have depressed him. There is, however, no doubt that the air is full of rumours and misgivings regarding French encroachment. It is said, apparently with truth, that the Sultan has reluctantly agreed to the appointment as French Consular Agent at Morocco of one Cid Hamed Zerna, an Algerian Mahomedan, and there are various rumours of French commercial activity in the interior, such as the establishment of an oil factory at Fez, the proposed grant of thirty-six sites or buildings as residences to French subjects at Morocco. I shall make careful inquiries, and inform your Lordship if these reports are corroborated. I am inclined to think that they are exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 292.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 99.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 10, 1893.

WITH reference to a Dalziel telegram published in the "Times" of the 31st ultimo, to the effect that during my visit to the coast I declined to entertain many of the claims preferred by British subjects, and confined myself to effecting certain changes in the Consular officers, I have the honour to report that although I made a careful inquiry into the claims that had been presented by British subjects and examined many of them in detail, I abstained from expressing any opinion as to their merits. I presume that the rumour that I had declined to entertain many of them must have arisen from the consciousness of the claimants that the proof they had been able to adduce in their support was not such as could be considered satisfactory.

The same telegram alleges that I dismissed a Vice-Consul. This is, of course, untrue, and is founded, I assume, upon the resignation of his office by M. Imossi, Vice-Consul of Larache—a resignation which was tendered spontaneously before I left Tangier for the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 293.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 20.)

(No. 100.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 12, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith extracts from letters I have received from Kaïd Maclean, containing various items of Court news, which may be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 293.

Kaïd H. Maclean to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Extract.)

Fez, May 12, 1893.

THE French first put up stones with some writing on them all along the line of the sixteen places I wrote to you about, and told the Moors at each place they had authority from the Sultan to put up the stones, and to make the new boundary-line, that the Moors must respect it, or it would be on their heads.

One tribe, L'Arbi Armeyan of Memkof, directly they heard the Sultan was going to Taflelt, took up the stones in their district, broke them up, and threw them away. The French are building one fort four hours from Figuig, and two others in Tuat; the name of the other two places in Tuat are—

A Kaïd from Tuat, called ——— has come here to ask the Sultan what he wishes. The French have taken lots of goods all along the new line, which they are selling cheaply to the Moors, and doing all they can to make friends with the Figuig and Tuat tribes. The Sultan is having a plan of the country from Oujda to Taflelt made, showing what part of Figuig and Tuat the French have taken, and marking the roads. The road from here to Taflelt, shown to the Court by the Ianer tribe, has seventeen halting places for the Sultan's camp, and, with stoppages, will take the Sultan about a month. The Viziers and all the big people at the Court are trying to dissuade the Sultan from going to Morocco this year, and want him to return here, as they think the tribes all round Fez are in a very unsatisfactory state. I hear His Shereefian Majesty is sure to go to Morocco, and hopes to get there in about four months' time.

Ci Foudal told me yesterday evening that the French have retired from Figuig and Tuat, and that the forts they were building have been pulled down, and all the stones they laid broken up and thrown away.

An expedition under Ci Mohammed-el-Miranee, the Sultan's brother-in-law, has started to-day for Ait S'diek, a place near Taflelt, to collect the tribes to join the Sultan's expedition it is said, but I expect they have gone to feel the way for the Sultan.

Inclosure 2 in No. 293.

Kaïd H. Maclean to Sir West Ridgeway.

(Extract.)

Fez, May 22, 1893.

THE other day I went to see Cid Gharnit, and met Gentile just coming out; directly Cid Gharnit saw me, he asked me who was the big man coming up from our Legation, and what was he coming for. From Ci Foudal's tone, I am sure Gentile had told him, and made out it was for no good. Kerdec left last Monday, and was sent for on Tuesday by Cid Gharnit to see the Sultan. Kerdec had a long interview with the Sultan. His Shereefian Majesty gave him a handsome grey horse. From all I hear, Kerdec is not even a friend to his own country.

The new Oomanas going to the Custom-houses on the coast have paid from 1,000 to 10,000 dollars for their appointments.

Inclosure 3 in No. 293.

*Kaïd H. Maclean to Sir West Ridgeway.**Fez, May 23, 1893.*

(Extract.)

HIS Shereefian Majesty will not leave until after the feast of "Aid-el-Kebeer," which finishes about the 3rd July.

All the transport animals (mules and camels) that have arrived here for the expedition are to be sent away to-morrow to Kaïd-el-Abbanee, to be fed until His Shereefian Majesty is about to leave. The Kaïds of Châonia now in Rabat with their men have been sent on in front of the Sultan.

At present it is arranged that His Shereefian Majesty is going to Tafilelt, and then on to Morocco. The elephant is to remain here until the Sultan gets near to Morocco, when Stokes will be sent for, and go there via Rabat.

Inclosure 4 in No. 293.

*Kaïd H. Maclean to Sir West Ridgeway.**Fez, June 1, 1893.*

(Extract.)

ON Monday last the Sultan went to pray at some more shrines of saints round Fez, and it is reported in the town he will shortly leave. The report is not true, and he will not go until after the feast. The Tarndant route has been abandoned, and His Shereefian Majesty is going to Morocco from Tafilelt by Tedlar.

The ladies of the harem are doing all they can to persuade the Sultan to give up Tafilelt, and to go to Morocco via Rabat, and to punish the tribes of Azemoor and Beni-Hassen. There was a report in town the other day about a man having come in from Tuat in a hurry with news that the French had again appeared there. There is not one word of truth in the report.

No. 294.

Mr. Gosselin to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 161. Confidential.)

Madrid, June 14, 1893.

My Lord,

THE Marquis Maffei told me yesterday that he had received orders from Rome to call the attention of the Spanish Government to the serious increase of French influence in Morocco, and to state that the Italian Government would willingly co-operate in any measures which might be deemed necessary to counteract this danger.

In the note which the Marquis Maffei read to me, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs said that this was a question which concerned Spain more than any other Power; that Italy could not act alone in the matter, but that it might be possible to remedy the mischief if Spain, Great Britain, and Italy adopted a common line of policy in dealing with the Sultan and his Government.

On my inquiring whether he had taken any action on this instruction, Marquis Maffei replied that he had spoken to Señor Moret about it, and was not a little surprised at his Excellency's reply.

Señor Moret admitted that the Spanish Government were alarmed at the position already acquired by the French in Morocco, but added that in view of the inefficient representation of Spain in that country, and of the uncertainty of his own tenure of the seals of the Foreign Office, he did not see his way to take any immediate action in the matter.

I may mention that when Señor Sagasta's Administration took office last December every effort was made to induce Señor Agüerra, the Spanish Minister at Brussels and now acting Under-Secretary at the Ministry of State, to accept the Tangier Legation, which is considered one of the most important in the Spanish Diplomatic Service; but for family reasons he declined the offer.

Marquis Maffei said that probably Count Tornielli had been instructed to speak to your Lordship in the same sense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 295.

Mr. Gosselin to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 164.)

Madrid, June 16, 1893.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 161, Confidential, of the 14th instant, the Italian Ambassador has shown me two articles given to him by Señor Moret on the subject of the marked increase of French influence in Morocco.

The first was a Spanish translation of an article in the "Kölnische Zeitung" (to which no date was appended, but which his Excellency said he had quite recently received from the Spanish Embassy at Berlin), stating that France, taking advantage of the rebuff recently given to British diplomacy in Morocco, had succeeded in monopolizing many important posts in the Empire; that a French doctor was in constant attendance on the Sultan; that M. de Kerder, the chief editor of the French newspaper published at Tangier, had acquired a great position at Fez, and that, in short, French influence was everywhere dominant in the country.

The writer went on to say that since the arrival of Mr. Eliot and Sir West Ridgeway something had been done to regain lost ground, a fact "which cannot but be agreeable to us Germans, it being easier for us to come to terms with England than with France."

The second article is an extract from the Spanish Tangier paper "El Eco Mauritano" of the 7th instant, headed "France in Africa."

After referring to the new Carthage France is creating in Tunis, the article draws attention to the forward policy adopted by her in Africa generally, and especially in Tunis, South Algeria, Tuat, and Morocco:—

"Unless things take another turn, unless England, Spain, and Italy, who are the Powers most interested, put a stop to this colonizing movement of the Republic, sooner or later she will attain her object to the lasting detriment of these three nations."

The article ends by foretelling that Morocco will be absorbed and become another Tunis, unless the other Powers discover the means of neutralizing French intrigue in this quarter.

The Marquis Maffei referring to the conversation reported in my despatch above referred to, said that the communication of these two articles by Señor Moret proved that the Spanish Government were fully alive to the firm hold which was rapidly being acquired by France in Morocco.

In this connection I may mention that the "Imparcial" has recently called attention to the endeavours of France to gain influence on the Atlantic seaboard between Cape Nun and Cape Bogador on the African coast lying immediately opposite to the Canaries.

The writer says, "France, for some time since, has been aiming at encompassing Morocco in one immense embrace, at domination at Tuat, at reaching Tafilelt, where she has already emissaries conspiring against the Sultan, and skirting to the south of the Atlas Range she hopes to arrive at the ocean opposite the Canary Islands."

The article concludes by stating that it is "inconceivable" that the Spanish Government have not, in conformity with the 1885 Act of Berlin, notified the Spanish Protectorate over this part of the African littoral, a Spanish Company having several years ago signed Treaties with the native Shereefs recognizing the Spanish Protectorate over their several districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MARTIN GOSSELIN.

No. 296.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 101.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 16, 1893.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 73 of the 28th April last, I have the honour to report that M. Cantagalli, the Italian Minister, has received letters from M. Gentile at Fez, stating that there is no chance of the Sultan renewing the Concession obtained by Count Tattenbach in 1890 for the exportation of wheat and barley. M. Gentile says that denunciations of the Concession, based on the harm which the export of barley has done to Morocco, pour in from all sides, and that to advocate the renewal of the Concession is altogether useless.

M. Gentile further represents that the Sultan is more opposed than ever to any commercial Concessions. I am inclined to think that M. Gentile, who writes in a very dejected tone, takes a pessimist view of the situation. His reception at Fez has not been as cordial as formerly, and he may be inclined to attribute this to a retrograde policy when it may really be the outcome of the Sultan's discontent at the inefficiency of the Arms Factory which His Majesty started at great cost in Fez, under the management of Italian officers. M. Gentile has not succeeded, I understand, in arranging this and other matters with the Sultan.

On the other hand, the Sultan's refusal to respond to the unanimous request of the Corps Diplomatique for the temporary grant of "cabotage" to meet the present scarcity in Tangier, referred to in my despatch No. 77 of the 4th ultimo, tends to confirm M. Gentile's views.

It is a curious fact that in this matter of "cabotage," the Sultan has sent replies to the notes of the French and English Ministers only, while the communications of the other Representatives remain unacknowledged.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 297.

Sir West Ridgeway to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 102. Secret.)

My Lord,

Tangier, June 19, 1893.

M. CANTAGALLI, the Italian Minister, recently read to me extracts from letters which he had received from M. Gentile, the Interpreter of his Mission now on a Special Mission to Fez.

M. Gentile takes a very gloomy view of the situation. He states that the Sultan has altogether abandoned himself to French influence. His Majesty's feelings towards that Power are those of intense gratitude for the part she took in his recent negotiations with England, and of expectancy that France will intervene if he is threatened by us. His Majesty recognizes the fact that France is the Power that can do him most harm, and the result of his combined gratitude and fears is a tendency towards accepting a French Protectorate.

When M. Gentile alluded to the friendship between Italy and Great Britain, and to the desire of both those Powers for the integrity and independence of Morocco, His Majesty warmly acknowledged the good feelings of Italy, but was studiously silent regarding England. Later, however, he referred to his grievances against us. They were, in addition to the well-known circumstances connected with the recent negotiations, the Cape Juby affair, the dispute regarding the telegraph cable, and the Agreement with France of August 1887 regarding the zone of French influence in North Africa, which, in His Majesty's opinion, seriously prejudiced the safety of Morocco.

His Majesty showed much interest regarding the alliance which he was informed had been contracted between France, Russia, and Turkey, the situation in Egypt, and the difficulties of Germany in connection with the Army Bill. M. Gentile inclosed to M. Cantagalli a number of a Paris newspaper ("Le Journal d'Abou Naddara") of 10th August, 1892, of which several hundred copies had been sent for distribution in Fez. This newspaper, which is published in Arabic and French, pretended to give an

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account of conversations during the recent negotiations between the Emperor and a Frenchman, and again between the Emperor and Sir Charles Euan-Smith, in terms very uncomplimentary to the latter. The bogus interview terminated by the Sultan acting on the advice of the Frenchman, and ordering the British Minister out of his presence with the words, "Je ne vous crains pas. Va-t-en." It was stated in this pretended conversation that the recent rebellion in the Angera country had been fomented by the British Minister.

Finally, M. Cantagalli (apparently with some reluctance) informed me that the Sultan had admitted to M. Gentile that the conduct of the present Special Mission had to a great extent restored his confidence in the good faith of England.

Subsequently, I had a conversation with Count Tattenbach, who I found inclined to agree with me, that M. Gentile, disappointed at his own reception so different from that of former years, was ready to take too gloomy a view of the situation, and was perhaps anxious to conceal his own retreat under the cover of a general defeat of the other Powers. His Excellency, however, remarked that the attitude of the friendly Powers as regards Tuat was calculated to drive the Sultan into the arms of France. I then put to him the question whether he thought it was desirable that we should encourage the Sultan to resist by force the annexation of Tuat, if we were not prepared to give him material assistance. Count Tattenbach evaded this question by replying that unless the encroachments of France were made the subject of protest there would be no restraint on her, and that a French expedition would have great difficulty in getting to Tuat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WEST RIDGEWAY.

No. 298.

Mr. Edwardes to the Earl of Rosebery.—(Received June 27.)

(No. 188. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Rome, June 23, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy and translation of a despatch and its inclosure addressed by the Italian Minister at Tangier to his Government, which Signor Brin has been good enough to send me, confidentially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. EDWARDES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 298.

M. Cantagalli to Signor Brin.

(Translation.)

M. le Ministre,

Tangier, June 4, 1893.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an interesting and confidential Report, drawn up by M. Gentile, Interpreter, at Fez, who was received fifteen days after his arrival there in private audience by His Shereefian Majesty.

In this Report, M. Gentile relates his conversation with the Sultan on politics. Your Excellency will learn what are the prevailing opinions and sentiments at Court at the present moment.

The labours of the French have borne the fruit which they desired. On the other hand, they have lessened to no small extent the esteem, the deference, and the regard in which was held, in previous time, everything of an English nature. Recent causes, reported to your Excellency, and others of earlier date, but the remembrance of which still disturbs the mind of the Sultan, have brought about such results. M. Gentile enumerates them.

The judgments of His Shereefian Majesty on the condition of things in Europe and on the intentions of the several Powers are not all well founded; but it is evident that he is well informed. With especial cleverness this Sovereign has been brought to consider, as an aspect of danger for himself, the action of the British in Egypt. He is suspicious of it. The campaign which was successful for him against the commercial demands of Great Britain, under the auspices of France and her emissaries, have roused his self-esteem and confidence.

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It does not occur to him that, in order to avoid one evil, he may have drawn upon himself a greater and a worse one. But, wary and cautious in his language, he does not reveal his innermost thoughts. It appears to me that M. Gentile used the language which was to be expected from him.

The delay of His Majesty to receive him, an evident coldness on the part of Ministers and courtiers, were signs, I do not doubt, that of all that had been told to him of our doings the Sultan had retained principally one impression, namely, that we are England's friends. For this reason he is distrustful. If it is necessary that the stay of our Dragoman be prolonged, he will not lose the opportunity for further conversations. The absolute correctness of our manner of proceeding will resuscitate little by little the former complete confidence. It will not be, in my opinion, without advantage for our friends, for ourselves, who cling to the independence of this country—independence of action for its Sovereign, who to-day rocks himself in dangerous illusions, entangled more than is to be believed in threads of subtle intrigues, and held in continuous surveillance and masked guardianship. My later despatches corroborate this same appreciation.

I have spoken on the subject of the Sultan's language to my British colleague, returned from the coast in these last days. He sees, also, how matters are drifting step by step. Certainly his studied quiescence and his scrupulous conduct, calculated to soften and smooth down angles, will have, in no light degree, calmed the anger and lessened the suspicions of the Court—more than this, he told me, he was not permitted to do. An error, a failure, would render the situation more acute, would ruin his career. He will be shortly leaving. His mission, a temporary one, is, so to say, fulfilled. He leaves Morocco, he added, profoundly convinced that nothing can avail here to strengthen the integrity of the Empire, or to aid it to resist the French advances, except by the force of the common will and agreement of all the Powers. It is agreeable to take act of such a declaration.

(Signed) CANTAGALLI.

P.S.—Signor Gentile refers opportunely, and this supports my previous appreciations to the silence preserved by His Majesty on frontier matters.

(Signed) R. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 298.

M. Gentile to M. Cantagalli.

Fez, May 26, 1893.

Sir,

I was received by the Sultan yesterday afternoon. I began, in accordance with custom, by offering to His Majesty the affectionate salutations of our august Sovereign and the homage of the King's Government and of your Excellency. The Emperor, in turn, asked with solicitude news of our King, of his Minister, and of yourself.

I thought it opportune to take the opportunity to refer to the demonstration of friendship and reverence made to our Sovereigns on the occasion of their silver wedding from all parts of the world. I spoke of the fêtes at Rome; I referred also to the Columbian fêtes and the naval review at Genoa. I then spoke to His Shereefian Majesty of the great interest which Italy takes in the well-being and prosperity of this Empire. I did my utmost to show to the Sultan how disinterested was the friendship of our country, and how the King's Government, in matters relating to Morocco, marched in accord with friendly Powers. At this point, it appeared to be advantageous to recall the agreement existing between Italy, Great Britain, and Spain. Nor did I neglect to repeat to His Majesty the words which I heard used by his Excellency our Minister for Foreign Affairs when I was last in Italy, words which his Excellency authorized me to pronounce on the first occasion before His Majesty, namely, that Italy is acting in the Morocco question in full accord with Great Britain; that that Power entertains no ambitious views on this country. I then informed the Emperor of what had been told to me by Sir West Ridgeway (a few days before my departure for Fez), both as to commercial questions and to the firm resolution of England in wishing to see the *statu quo* maintained in Morocco.

Muley Hassan replied that he was persuaded of the disinterested friendship of Italy. He was most reserved as to other Powers. Not a word relating to the English, not an allusion to the conduct of Sir C. Euan-Smith. His Majesty spoke, instead, of the intimate relations of France and Russia. He asked if it were true that these two Powers were united by an alliance.

I replied that I had no news as to the conclusion of such a pact.

His Shereefian Majesty then went on to speak of the good relations of France with Turkey, and of the dispatch of war vessels of the Republic, a short time ago, to Egyptian waters.

It was evident to what events, to what policy, and to what aims the Sultan wished to allude. The Emperor showed himself also informed as to the opposition in the German Parliament to the military projects of the Government. His Majesty was clearly under the impression of what he had heard from Count d'Aubigny, Dr. Linares, and M. Herdec. The active working of the French Legation and of its emissaries has not been lost. As to the declarations made by us as to the disinterested policy of England, the Sultan maintained silence. He, however, allowed one to divine his inner thoughts, his doubts when referring to British policy in Egypt. When I confront the attitude of His Shereefian Majesty, in this circumstance, with the ideas manifested by some of his Ministers, I have been obliged to persuade myself that at the Court of Morocco are still nourished fears and distrust towards Great Britain, and, consequently, to a certain extent, towards her friends.

The Sultan continues to feel bitterness for the manner of procedure adopted in laying the telegraph cable between Tangier and Gibraltar. He is annoyed at the presence of the English at Cape Juba, and believes that the Cabinet of St. James' has compromised the interests of this country by the conclusion (in 1890, if my memory does not fail me) of the known Agreement with France for the delimitation of the reciprocal spheres of interest in Africa.

There is here, at Court, a party which holds, or appears to hold, that the eventuality is possible that England and France may come to an agreement, France leaving to England a free hand in the country of the Pharaohs, and England, in return, disinterestedly herself from France in the question of Morocco. Other Ministers and courtiers are of the opinion that the object of French policy is to excite the Sultan against the English, and when the latter, being thereby provoked, wish to assume a threatening attitude, France would be prepared to come to the defence of Morocco, exacting, of course, from His Shereefian Majesty, large compensations, and perhaps even the acceptance of the Protectorate of the Republic. Such hypothesis has tended not a little, fortunately, to calm the anger of (Makzen) towards Great Britain. Ministers and courtiers, however, almost unanimously affirm that Morocco, seriously threatened by the policy of Sir C. Euan-Smith, was saved by the intervention of France. Hence the favour enjoyed by the French at Court. Muley Hassan believes that he has contracted a debt of gratitude; he is doing all he can, but avoiding always the cession of important interests, not to appear ungrateful.

Germany is always influential at Court. Much, however, is done and said to convince the Sultan that from that Power His Majesty has little or nothing to hope for, having no political interests in Morocco to guard.

Spain continues to be looked on as the Power who desires the possession of the Empire, and whose weakness alone retains her from attempting the realization of her ambitious project. It is feared also that an agreement between Spain and France may be possible.

The irritation at Court against Portugal and the United States of America is great. The Representatives of these two Powers at Tangier are accused of committing every kind of abuse in the exercise of the right of protection and of agricultural Concessions.

Austria I have heard spoken of as a friendly Power, because an ally of Italy and Germany.

(Signed) A. G. GENTILE.

No. 299.

The Earl of Rosebery to Sir West Ridgeway.

(No. 79.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 27, 1893.

I APPROVE the instructions which you have addressed to Mr. Vice-Consul Macleod, for his guidance, as reported in your despatch No. 97 of the 7th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROSEBERY.

No. 300.

The Earl of Rosebery to Mr. Edwardes.

(No. 118. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, June 30, 1893.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 188, Confidential, of the 23rd instant, forwarding a despatch from the Italian Minister at Tangier, which has been confidentially communicated to you by Signor Brin.

I have read M. Cantagalli's report and its inclosure with much interest, and I have to request that you will convey my thanks to Signor Brin for his courtesy in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROSEBERY.

and